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A Thumbnail Sketch

FOR all the dreary death-traps in the time of war, commend me to Boulogne. Many men died there; but there was nothing dreary in this, and the hospitals in which they died were made within as unlike Boulogne as possible. Some had been hotels with lifts, perhaps adequate for frills and furbelows, but ludicrous for stretcher cases; some had been casinos, and are now again returned, like the dog of Scripture, to their vomit of tired frivolity. A certain number of senior men, their personalities concealed beneath an alarming array of official letters, and their consciences—unless pachydermatous—seared by the embitterment of men passing to and fro, lived in Boulogne and tried to like it.

Among the city's few amenities, there arose towards the end of the war a series of somewhat pretentious huts labelled the Officers' Club, and, after the Armistice one day I reached this place, and soon passed out of it again in search of anything that I might do, or anyone still living I might know. On the pavement opposite there stood a subaltern seemingly more depressed than I. His Corps was the Royal Engineers; but certain badges betokened that his chief concern was not with honest solids of the concrete kind, but with those fatal fumes which had been added to the awfulness of war since St. George's Day, 1915. Sad as he stood, my heart lifted up at the sight of him, for I had seen him once and again and more than that, coming and going in his process of advancement during the years between. I had known him first as a sergeant in the Buffs—a sergeant of whom it was said that he had a habit, peculiar anywhere, but well nigh unthinkable in such unsentimental material, of taking any culprit in his section on one side after the parade was over, and talking to him, without oath or blasphemy, so kindly and so pityingly that the wretched man would beg him to give over, and make forthwith full promise of amendment. I had known him later when commissioned in the Special Brigade detailed for desperate work with gas-projecting cylinders; and now I found him thus.

“Hallo,” said I, “what's doing here?”

“Nothing,” he said, with all the light gone out of him.

“Thank God, you have come through, old boy,” said I.

"Yes, I suppose so," he replied.

"What next?" I asked.

"Why, what indeed?" he said.

"Well, anyhow," I cried, to rid me of these disillusioned parries, "I have got a car, I don't know whose, for all the afternoon; come on." On he came; and we proceeded far out beyond Boulogne, up past St. Martin's Camp where men had cursed and shivered, out into the winter land of France, so stricken, so redeemed; tortured, yet now triumphant; dead indeed, but free.

We turned the car for Radinghem, and I explained meanwhile how pleasure marched with duty, and how it was both to me to go and see a school of the strangest kind there situated. At this place there were concentrating from many different units men with Sam Brownes and stars, and crowns too, some of them, upon their shoulders. They were God's men henceforth; and that by the process of their free conviction, and through the development of a scheme which had its origin, like the war itself, in a mere scrap of paper.

I had spoken of this to him before, for I knew my man or could not thus have treated him. Time was, in days gone by, when he had seen upon the Notice Board of Talbot House the paragraph which invited those who would serve God's Church to promise that if God brought them through they would take it as a hint from Him that He had special need of them. So we twain came to Radinghem, and found the chateau tenanted by men who welcomed us—so far as any Englishmen can welcome any stranger—and gave us what they had for tea. Their Commandant was a Chaplain—one who since 1914 had been busy about the Father's business in France and Flanders. God knows how many he had helped, how many healed and comforted. And here on the very ruins of the world, the lava of this vast volcano of human hatred still warm beneath his feet, it was his task to summon these few men to lead the replacement of those five thousand clergy, ordained or looking to Orders, whose loss was well-nigh crippling.*

As the winter night drew in, I left once more; but now I went alone. The light had come back into the eyes of my companion, and was never more to leave them while life itself lasted. To-day, like fifteen hundred others ordained through the influence of the movement there begun, the man of whom I write is where he may be. It is not mine to tell you; though some, I make no doubt, will know.

TUBBY.

* The Commandant of the Chaplain's School at Radinghem was the Rev. E. K. Talbot, M.C., Neville Talbot's elder brother, now Superior of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. The venture was, therefore, by his name still further linked with Talbot House where it had its origin. "Chief among the objects for which Talbot House appealed," wrote Tubby, in *Tales of Talbot House* (chapter viii.) "was the Service Candidates' Fund, which indeed was opened by large offertories from Talbot House, the first donation being from Major Street's family (*Edmund Street, Sherwood Foresters, killed on the Somme on October 15, 1916*). The whole scheme for Service Candidates originated in Talbot House, and some two hundred of the original candidates enlisted there. . . . Later the lists grew beyond private responsibility, and were transferred to Headquarters" (i.e., to the Deputy Chaplain General, Bishop Gwynne). After the School in France came the Service Candidates' Ordination Test School at home—established by the Central Church Fund of the Church of England, and housed in Knutsford Prison: the School moved recently to Hawarden (see November JOURNAL, 1926, p. 412). F. R. Barry, now writing in these pages, was Principal of it, and Tubby and Sawbones among the teachers and the School has given us many Toc H Padres. Just before this number of the JOURNAL went to press, a Knutsford reunion brought together in London a good many faces familiar in Toc H.—ED.

GLIMPSES OF AFRICA

II—The Haven of Peace

THE East Coast of Africa is famous for its natural harbours, not least of which are those of Dar-es-Salaam, Kilwa and Lindi, in what was formerly German East Africa. The Arabic name of the first of these is translated in the title of this article. A peculiarity of these harbours is that they are more like inland salt-water lakes, invisible for the most part from the sea and approached by narrow winding channels leading in from an opening in the surf-beaten coral reefs. As the morning sun turns the grey waters into mirrors of azure blue, a faint feathery line of palm trees and the roar of the surf indicate the approach to land. As the vessel reaches near enough to the shore to discover the few small, white, birthday-cake-looking bungalows dotted here and there amongst the palms and cassuarina trees, a white motor launch is seen suddenly to emerge from the apparently unbroken line of coast, and as the transport slows up, a naval officer climbs aboard and takes charge. A right-angle turn to port leads us through a narrow channel in the reef, ahead of which an opening appears in the palm groves ; on the right of this opening a wrecked German liner lies on her side ; a buoy on the left marks the top of a sunken dock, and in between the tide rushes out at 10 knots. The Germans had attempted to block this channel, had sunk the floating dock, and proposed to sink, broadside on, in the rest of the fairway, one of their smaller steamers. The craft was moored fore and aft, a fuse was lighted. The officer in charge took boat to the shore ; watch in hand, he waited for the explosion of a heavy charge of dynamite in the engine-rooms, but nothing happened. Before he could make up his mind to return and investigate, the tide had turned and the pent-up waters of the great inland harbour began to surge through the narrow channel. The bow cable, unable to stand the strain, snapped, and the blockade ship swung round, bow out to sea, and, before dead water enabled her to be put in position again, a British cruiser with a few shells sunk her broadside on to the shore, and thus left clear a sufficient channel to enter the harbour with careful navigation. Passing through this narrow opening a second sharp swing to port brings one into the beautiful harbour of Dar-es-Salaam, three miles long and half a mile broad. On the right lie rows of white two-storied bungalows, and beyond, the Arab buildings of the older town. A slender grey spire marks the Roman Catholic cathedral, and not far from it the Lutheran church, with its red tiled roofs and pepper-pot architecture, gives a typical German touch. Along the front stretches an avenue of "flame" trees, a gorgeous canopy of scarlet shading the dusty white coral road from the tropical sun. This was to be the home of British G.H.Q. for the next two years, and though its sanitation was primitive, its water brackish, its heat at times intense, and the food supplies limited and preponderantly "canned," many worse spots might have fallen to our lot.

The Deputy Judge-Advocate General had a yacht—German, built at Kiel as a racer ; she was, strange to say, neither looted nor 'scrounged.' She had been

seized as prize and lay at anchor off the residence of the Senior Naval Officer. From his office window in the German Government Buildings, now occupied by the administrative staff, he had cast envious eyes on her, when a bright idea struck him. In due course he presented himself at the S.N.O.'s office with a long tale of the C.-in-C.'s fondness of the sea and the health-giving relaxation which could be obtained by an occasional sail. After some discussion, the yacht *Lucha* was handed over to the D.J.A.G., and duly equipped with sails and a native crew, a great, solid African with muscles that stood out like bands of iron through his polished black skin. It was unfortunate that the C.-in-C. loathed the sea and was seasick if he so much as stood on a pier, but his legal adviser was the only officer at G.H.Q. who was never sick or sorry while at the port, thus proving his theory as to the beneficial effects of yachting.

From 5.30 to 7 p.m. saw the *Lucha* under sail most evenings. Out from the placid waters of the "Haven" she would peacefully slip, until—away from the shelter of the shore—she heeled over to the pressure of the monsoon, and swung up and over the giant rollers that had made their way across from Indian shores. At times, anchored in some island cove, the skipper and his mate would dive overboard into the crystal-clear water with an ever-open eye for the unwelcome shark, and afterwards, lying naked on the sunbaked deck, would gaze down into the wonders of tropical waters. Fish of strange and marvellous beauty could be seen clear and distinct 20 ft. below, some like moving columbines with white and feathery wings or petals, others round globes of brilliant yellow, while occasionally a great monster weighing 40 or 50 pounds would drift slowly by scattering its flowerlike fellows in its passage. As the red sun plunged—it seemed almost with a hiss—into the waters, it behoved one to hoist sail hurriedly and make for port, for with the sunset the naval picket boats had strict instructions to fire on any boat attempting to enter the harbour after dark. Indeed, a young officer from a hospital ship once took a party of nurses out and had to run the gauntlet of machine-gun fire in his attempts to return. On hot nights the skipper and mate would take the good ship *Lucha* out into the middle of the harbour and, erecting camp beds on deck, would sleep under the stars free from the depressing stuffiness of mosquito nets and lulled by the lapping of the waters round her side. One who has not seen the tropical night cannot realise the beauty and brilliance of the starry heavens. Looking up into the infinite deep blue of the skies, spangled with its twinkling lamps, visualising the vast stretches of uninhabited plains and forests behind one with its roaming animal life, one became overawed by the wonder and beauty of God's Kingdom and the insignificance of one's own being. As the first herald of dawn comes the morning breeze, so poetically described by the Dutch Forest Ranger writing to Harry Ellison: "Very few know this breeze; only we who sleep on the veld at night or in the wild forests and wake up early in the morning, know its movements in the branches and the grass. It is a sign of dawn, the coming of the sun. The advance may be cloudy, but nevertheless the sun will be seen. And then?"*

*See July JOURNAL, 1926, p. 252.

It is not always fair sailing. Vivid recollections come before one of sudden tempestuous storms with wild rushes back to port, close hauled and reefed, with eyes and mouth full of salt spray ; of a cold and miserable night wrapped up in a sail on an island on which we had run aground at the top of spring tide, supperless and shelterless to bed, having inadvertently kicked over the bottle which contained our medical comfort ; of standing waist deep in the water in a pitiless rain at 1.30 a.m., trying to heave the good ship off the shoals, and finally tossing at anchor, wooing sleep in a stuffy cabin with steady drips of water from the strained deck above. Or the occasion when a desire to emulate the Good Samaritan led the skipper to invite a party of " blue birds " (alias South African V.A.D.) for a sail. Conversation was difficult with these girls, who had just arrived on their first tour of duty, and was finally closed when, after considerable silence, one said : " How long have you been here, Major ? " " Nine months," the Skipper replied. A silence and then : " Do you think that in nine months we shall look as yellow as you do ? "

How one longs sometimes (even in the palatial offices of Toc H Headquarters) for the sound of the humming of the shrouds, the *swish-thump-swish-thump*, as one cut through the maelstrom of waters where the outgoing tide met the great ocean billows. Where is there such a poetry of motion, such a sense of courageous advance, as in the stout and well-found vessel sailing close-hauled on a mighty ocean ! Who can wonder at the glorious history of our little island, girt about by its silver sea, when one realises how those gallant bands of Devon and Cornish men, and indeed men from all parts, set out in cockleshells to subdue the oceans and to discover new countries and nations ! Across these oceans to-day the missionaries of Toc H are spreading the Gospel. May the morning breezes, coming up from the freshness of the sea over these new lands, with their scattered straggling populations, bring with them the message of Toc H and a new inspiration to that virile young life that is building up a nation in what was once known as " Darkest Africa " !

Our final picture stands out—a warm, quiet evening after the Armistice, Christmas night as a matter of fact. The Ordnance had a quantity of cordite to be destroyed, and, as a stock of German fireworks had been discovered, it was decided to celebrate the Christmas Feast with a display. The *Lucha*—shortly, alas, to be sold in prize and to pass into the hands of those who loved her not as a good ship deserves to be loved—was anchored in mid-harbour. Aft, the skipper, mate and a cheery C.F. of the Roman Church presided over a magnificent spread of " bully " in divers forms, tinned fruits of all kinds, chocolates, and an excellent sparkling Cape wine, while " forrad " the Scotch second-in-command of an Indian regiment, paced up and down the somewhat confined deck playing the bagpipes. The Imperial and South African Nursing Service, of course, supplied the ladies of the party. The repast over, the guests, Roman fashion, extended themselves along the deck to await the evening's entertainment. A bobbing torch on the shore about 500 yards off indicated that something was afoot. We had not long to wait. Suddenly a flame sprang up heavenwards, and in a few seconds some tons of cordite was converted into a blazing pillar of

fire. There sprang into view a vivid panorama of green—palm and mango tree, banana and baobab, brilliant in colour and standing out stark and flat against the darkness as if cut out of painted cardboard. A few seconds more and the golden waters of the harbour were a-boil with fish. All the myriad mysterious inhabitants of the deep sea seemed to have leapt to the surface to greet the light. What had a few moments before been a dark, unrippled surface was now a golden cascade of splashing waters and leaping fish. Clear over the decks and housed mainsail they leapt, some crashing down on to the decks and others into the laps of the lady guests, causing much alarm and clamour. For some five to ten minutes the turmoil continued ; then, as the flames died down, the leaping and dancing died with them ; the panorama faded out, and darkness and quiet descended once more.

R. C. G.

RATIONS FOR RATIONALISTS

IV. Where "Christianity" Begins

IF we want to study the New Testament in any scientific kind of way, we do not start with the Gospels. The Gospels presuppose a Society living in the Christian faith and practice, educating themselves in the Christian way of life, sharing in the Christian experience ; and they are the result of Christian experience working upon the memories and traditions which had come down from an earlier generation. We make our start higher up the stream. We first watch the new life *in action*, as it is reflected in the Epistles, in the kind of way I suggested last month. Christianity was a way of life long before it became a philosophy, long before it possessed any documents. The earliest name for the Church was *The Way* (A&ts IX, 2). Christianity went out into the World as a dynamic and creative impulse, remaking human lives, lifting commonplace men and women to new heights of purity and sacrifice, gathering them into a community—the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit—in which they found new meanings in life and new attitudes to one another. The decisive experience of Pentecost released into the world a new Spirit which at once began to clothe itself in a body—what St. Paul was later to call the Body of Christ. It verified itself in a Society, in which all that the Spirit of Christ involves was discovered and applied experimentally, along all the lines of human activity, in family life and social relationships, in human dealings and civic obligations, no less than the economic adventures so vividly described in A&ts (II, 44, 45 ; IV, 32-37). The whole of life began to be transfigured, all motives to be redirected, all accepted values to be revised : all their interests and affections were centred round a new, controlling loyalty. A new thing had come into the world, and in the Epistles we watch it at work. When a man came to be "in Christ" there was—as St. Paul said—"a new creation. The former things are passed away, behold they are become new." We first watch, in the apostolic letters, the creative life which the Way in fact was, and bathe our hearts and minds in that Spirit. Then we ask, "And how can we account for this ? What caused this marvellous Renais-

sance? What was the focus of this dynamic force?" And then we find, as we read the documents, that something is everywhere taken for granted, unguarded and indubitable. It is assumed that all the new experience is the work of the risen Christ. That leads us to ask, "Who, then, and what was He?" and so leads us back to the Gospels, just as it led the early Church to write them. But the Gospels, then, come to us accredited by the actual achievements of Jesus in the life of His community: we see His portrait as it is reflected through the lives which He has changed.

This is the logical order of faith. What happens is that a man becomes attracted by something he finds in the lives of Christians, and is led through that to enquire about its source. And this is also the chronological order in which the New Testament books were composed. The Gospels, as we shall see later on, were written later than nearly all the Epistles. The Church had been in existence thirty years and Christian Groups had been firmly established all along the lines of imperial communications from Jerusalem right across to Rome before the earliest "Gospel" was published (St. Mark, A.D. 65). That is to say, the first Christian missionaries did not go out to convert the world with written "lives" of Jesus in their hands. Stories about the life of Jesus did not form part of the earliest Gospel. They preached Christ crucified and risen as the Lord and Giver of a new Way of life. And the earliest converts did not "learn Christ" by being given a book to read about Him or merely by receiving instruction. They were brought *inside* a social experiment, in which they learnt what Christianity meant by trying to practise it with others. They learnt the Way experimentally—and how else, in fact, can it be learned? Words like love, sacrifice, humility, faith, worship, pardon and the rest, are, as it were, merely token-coinage. They only achieve significance and value when they are *lived*, however elementarily, in actual practice and experience. Learning, as we know now, is largely doing; education means directed activity rather than acquiring information. And this was the way men first received the Gospel. Thus it would seem that the earliest missionaries were far more in line with modern educational science than are the methods of the modern Church. I must not turn aside to point the obvious moral. Those of you who are concerned with education, and those who are watching missionary policy in Central Africa and India in its bearing on the future of civilisation will see the tremendous issues involved. (See, for example, Norman Leys, *Kenya*, pp. 226-271.)

I will try later to give some idea of how the Gospels came into existence. Let us first look at the letters of St. Paul and try to get an impression in general terms of what it really meant to be a Christian. We will take the letters one by one and make clear why they were written and what situation lies behind them. In this way we shall watch the developments of thought and action in the early Church, and reach a position from which we can appreciate the origin and growth of the Gospels. But of course we can only follow St. Paul's letters if we put them in their proper context in his own life and missionary enterprise: we must read them in conjunction with *Acts*—though *Acts* itself was not composed till later, probably in the reign of Domitian (81-96).

The first Christian community (as the account of *Acts* makes clear enough) was a sect inside Judaism. Our Lord was a Jew and so were the disciples, and even after the Jews had crucified Him, it never occurred to them to be anything else. The believers gathered in the Upper Room joined regularly in the Temple services, observed the Sabbath and all the Law required, and shared with the Jews the Messianic hope. Only they had a special belief of their own ; they claimed to know who the Messiah was, to have seen and known Him in the flesh. It was Jesus, whom the priests made Pilate crucify. But God had raised Him from the dead, vindicating thereby His messiahship. He had poured out "this which ye do see and hear," the life of the Spirit at Pentecost, in token (as was apparent from prophecy) that the messianic day was now at hand, and that Jesus—dishonoured and done to death—would quickly return to inaugurate the New Age. Let Israel recognise its true Messiah, now before it is too late, and associate itself with His disciples. That is an outline of St. Peter's Sermon on the day of Pentecost in *Acts* II ; and it represents the essential standpoint of the Church in the first days of its existence. The germ of future developments is there. The disciples' faith in their Messiah is kept alive by their own common worship (apart from the Temple services) and by the Breaking of Bread in which they realised His presence. And from the first the company of disciples gave economic expression to their sense of brotherhood in Jesus ; the first and permanent result of the coming of the Spirit was the emergence of "the Community." ("Fellowship" and "Communion" in our Bibles both represent the same Greek word *koinonia* : "community" gives the same double sense.) But anything that we can recognise as a separate or distinctive "Christianity" still lies ahead in the future. The aim of the apostolic missionaries was to convince their co-religionists "that the Messiah was Jesus" (*Acts* IX, 22 and *passim*). Now there was only one way to do that. The only way to convince the Jewish mind was to prove that Jesus had in fact fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and expectations ; and this, as every reader can see, is the gist of the earliest recorded speeches. Therefore the only book that was needed for the earliest missionary effort was a copy of the Jewish scriptures—the only Bible known to the primitive Church. But they were not a wealthy community, and a whole Bible would be very costly. And besides it would be too bulky to carry about several hundred feet of written scroll. It was therefore a matter of obvious convenience to make small collections of "proof-texts" for the use of the travelling preachers ; and this in all probability was the first literary enterprise undertaken by the infant Church. It is just possible that some such work was undertaken by St. Matthew ; at any rate there is evidence to show that it was done very early ; and the quotations from the Scriptures which bulk so large in our New Testament books were probably drawn from this collection and not direct from the Old Testament. This accounts for the odd form they take.

The disciples thus regarded themselves as Jews and never dreamed of breaking with Judaism. The initiative came from the other side : the Jewish authorities tried to silence them and soon made the position insupportable. But it had not dawned on the disciples—what was really implicit in the whole position—that

the community of Jesus must issue out from the matrix of the Judaism that had borne it and live an independent life of its own. St. Stephen was the first to see the point, and it was he who first forced the issue.

“Jews” in the New Testament, means two things. There were the Jews who lived in Palestine speaking Aramaic as their language, exclusive, and tenacious in their orthodoxy. These our English versions call *Hebrews*, meaning Aramaic speakers (Acts VI, 1). (They were represented in the Church by St. James the “brother of the Lord,” who lived a Jew to the end of his days, and prayed so long and often in the Temple that—on the testimony of Hegesippus—he developed knee-joints like a camel!) There were also the Jews of the Dispersion—called in our versions *Grecians* or Hellenists (Acts VI, 1, R. V. margin)—who came up to Jerusalem for the great feasts. These were men living among the Gentiles, speaking Greek (the universal language) and in touch—as we should say—with a wider life; less exclusive and more liberal, sitting a little loosely to the Law and prepared if necessary to waive a good deal in their outreach towards the Gentile world. Now it is clear from Pentecost onwards the Church contained members of both these groups. It was perhaps almost inevitable that some tension and difficulty must arise between them. It did not take long. The Greek speaking section charged the Twelve with partiality in administering the common funds. They hinted that the Twelve were unfairly concerned with the claims of the Aramaic-speaking “widows” when it came to the distribution of relief: the Greek-speaking “widows” were left out! And this, as we know, was the immediate cause of the appointment of “the Seven” (Acts VI, 1-6). The incident is slightly obscure; and from the merely historical point of view raises a good many problems. But all the Seven, you will notice, have Greek not Aramaic names. They represent the “Hellenist” element. Stephen at once comes into prominence; and then the first real trouble starts.

Stephen was accused before the Sanhedrin of “blasphemous words *against Moses*.” He asserted that Jesus would destroy the Temple and change the Mosaic customs (Acts VI, 12-14). This, you observe, was exactly the same charge brought against our Lord at the trial (Mark XIV, 58) and I do not think it was *false witness* in either case. I believe He had said something of the kind, and that Stephen was the first to realise what in fact was implied in it. The faith of Jesus, he saw, was something new, and you could not pour the new wine into the old skins. It could not be confined by the Law. And this, it appears, was the point of his defence. God, he said, had revealed himself to Abraham outside the frontiers of Palestine, and many of his most signal acts were done before the Law was ever heard of. Circumcision was not the ground of his acceptance, it was the sign that God had accepted him. (Notice throughout how closely this anticipates the arguments St. Paul was to use later in *Galatians* and *Romans*). God’s presence was revealed in the “Tent” long before there was a Temple; and there was, as Amos is quoted to corroborate, no sacrificial system in the Desert; and yet God was in their midst (Acts VII). In other words the Old Testament is quoted to prove that God’s self-disclosure was not conditioned by the Law—that is, in effect, the Law was only temporary. (See also Gal. iii, 16-1v, 9.)

This was the standard of revolt, raised by the "left" in the primitive community. It was too much for the Jewish authorities, and caused persecution from their side. Stephen sealed his faith with his life; showing in death that "modernist" though he was, he had a rich Christian experience. The community was expelled and scattered abroad, some as far as Antioch in Syria, sowing the seed as they went; and some began to take the decisive step of offering the good news to the *Gentiles* * (Acts VIII, 1-3; XI, 19-21). This is really the decisive moment. The Church is cut adrift from Jerusalem, and is establishing touch with the Gentiles. This is where "Christianity" begins; and it is here that St. Paul comes on the scene.

F. R. BARRY.

NOTE: What I have written here is little more than a paraphrase of Acts I-VIII. The best book in English on Acts is by Blunt in the *Clarendon Bible* (4s. 6d.). Any novice who wants to read the New Testament with intelligence and interest should start on this admirable edition. And the series (which is only just beginning) looks like being far the best available.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

THIS year the Central Council broke with tradition: it did not meet at Mark I, for the old House is closed and a new one not yet opened. It assembled instead, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 9, at Mary Sumner House (the Headquarters of the Mothers' Union), Tufton Street, Westminster. There were present 68 elected Councillors, 11 *ex-officio* members, and 7 Padres and 5 Area Secretaries, who were not Councillors but who were given leave to speak, but not to vote. Various members of H.Q. staff expedited business: Rex Calkin and Max Oxford collected voting-papers, Leslie Hawkins helped the Registrar to "clock-in" the Councillors and to count votes, and Bob Shelston took the shorthand notes on which this report is based.

THE OPENING.

The proceedings began with a short service in the beautiful chapel of Mary Sumner House. Padre HAROLD HUBBARD (Cheltenham College, now Hon. Administrative Padre of Toc H) said the first prayers and TUBBY conducted the ceremony of *Light*. PETER MONIE gave an address, too long to be quoted here in full. He reminded his hearers how different in its personnel the present Council is from the first Council of 1923—"We are getting further away from the old tradition; new hands are taking hold. . . . Toc H is different in structure, in organisation, from what it used to be. That is inevitable, and I am sure it is right. Our machinery, our devices must be adapted to our needs and our growth. But our structure, our organisation, our machinery are, as it were, the boots in which Toc H walks. I like to have my boots watertight and I like to have them comfortable; but it matters very much more to me where I am going and whether I am getting there. Toc H has changed, and must change outwardly. Has it changed inwardly—changed in its spirit, its motive, its purpose, its goal?" The speaker then took his hearers back to the Old House in Poperinghe—to Punch's comment that it made "a corner of heaven in the hell of officers' and men's lives"; to Lord Cavan's saying that "welcome met him at the door, happiness lived within, and the Peace that passeth understanding could be found by those who sought it in the Upper Room"; and to Tubby's explanation in 1920 that Toc H stood for a dual reconciliation—of man with man, and man with God. All these sayings, Peter said, must still be true of Toc H now and as it went forward. "Next,"

* So R.V., but the reading is difficult—"Greeks" in our Bibles means Gentiles, "Grecians" means Hellenists or Greek-speaking Jews, as explained above.

he continued, "look at Toc H differently. Look at it from our documents. You will see, I think, if you read them 'humbly and hospitably,' trying to find out what they mean, three things. Toc H exists, first, to spread a spirit, the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown by all ranks in the Great War—to *spread it*. It exists, secondly, to *be a family*—a family which ignores the differences between men—birth, training, wealth, ability, political opinions, religious or ecclesiastical opinions. Thirdly, and most important, it exists in order to bring home to men a *challenge*: it exists that, 'through the common Christian life of the family, its members may be encouraged to seek God,' the God revealed in Christ Jesus, and may be helped 'to find His will and to do it.' . . . The challenge of Toc H is a challenge to fight for the Kingdom, and to fight as and where we are told, realising that we are God's soldiers, His volunteers, and that we must be ready to fight wherever He chooses, to take the hardest, even the bitterest, jobs of all if that is what He would have of us. . . . If we are to face this challenge we need to learn to pray, for it is in prayer that we are to 'listen for the voice of God.' And we need to *learn* to pray, not to say prayers—anyone can do that. It is not enough to say "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." We have to train ourselves to *listen*. And it is not enough to listen—we must also *hear*; and when we hear, we must also learn to *do*—and that is often quite the hardest thing of all. This is what the Rule of the League of the Lamp is really driving at—not to foist something new on Toc H, but to bring out, to bring home, to help men to find and to face, the challenge which Toc H already brings to us all—a challenge which it is so easy for us to dodge—the challenge to listen for the voice of God, to try to find His will for us and to do it."

A TRIBUTE TO HERBERT FLEMING.

As soon as the Councillors had settled into their places in the Assembly Hall and REGGIE MAY (Col. Sir R. S. May, Chairman of the Central Executive) had taken the chair, TUBBY moved that the Council record its deepest regret at the death, on November 17 last, of HERBERT FLEMING, formerly Administrative Padre of Toc H. The Council rose and stood for a while in silence.

APPOINTMENTS.

The appointments of PETER MONIE as Hon. Administrator and of HAROLD HUBBARD as Hon. Administrative Padre were confirmed. On the motion of the former these appointments were made to terminate on the day of the Annual Council Meeting in April 1929, or for such shorter period as the person appointed may desire to hold office. The following appointments were also confirmed:—*To be Padres (paid)*—L. G. APPLETON (London, Western Area); R. H. L. SLATER, formerly Association Padre unpaid (Newcastle); E. G. DAVIDSON (Manchester, temporary); A. L. SIDERFIN (Leicester). *(Unpaid)*—G. C. LUNT (Egypt); R. H. RAGG (Winnipeg); J. H. BATESON; A. C. E. JARVIS (Chaplain General to the Forces); O. S. WATKINS; H. E. HUBBARD; GILBERT WILLIAMS.

FINANCE: 1. *The Hon. Treasurer's Statement.*

It was clear to everyone that the present financial problems of Toc H must fill the leading place in the Council's discussions this year. WM. A. HURST, as Hon. Treasurer, therefore rose to face an expectant meeting. "I believe," he said, "all of you have had a copy of the Accounts for 1926, and I presume that all of you have read them, that all of you understand them, and that you all approve. First of all I should like to say that the Branch Accounts this year show a wonderful improvement in the way in which they have been kept, and the promptitude with which they have been sent to Headquarters at the end of the year; at the close of this financial year there were only two Branch Accounts that held up the final audit. One Branch we have forgiven very freely because they have never offended before, but the other Branch is an old offender, and we are going to have a serious talk with its representative. I am going to ask you who take an active interest in the work of your Branches to have a serious talk with the Secre-

taries of the Branches and Groups in your Area which have sent you to this Council as to the amount of work thrown upon the Auditors, many of whom do the work without fee or reward. When we have got eminent firms of auditors in the country, who in some instances have undertaken the work voluntarily, the least you can do is to have your accounts ready at the end of the year so that they can do the audit and not be asked to make up the books for you. This year I am going to ask the Executive Committee or the Finance Committee to allow Musters to pay some of you a visit, for I am persuaded that some of you don't understand our very simple system of accounts. They are really simple and elementary notwithstanding the elaboration we give them at Headquarters. In some cases it is merely a question of income and expenditure.

Last year I divided what I had to say into three parts : the past, the present, and the future ; I am going to do very much the same this year. The past can very well take care of itself. The *past*, as far as last year is concerned, showed a very great improvement in the matter of the Branches with Houses. In 1924 Branches with Houses showed a loss of £1,095 ; in 1925 they showed a profit of £746, and in 1926 they showed a profit of £1,048. Whatever the cause, I think congratulations are due to those Branches which have pulled themselves together. The improvement is really due to the London Houses and to two provincial Houses, Swindon and Southampton. I want you to remember that the Houses are our own property, subject to mortgage in some cases, and that one-third, approximately, of our Chaplaincy Endowment Fund is invested in the Houses. We do not think that any Branch with a House should find itself in the position at the end of the year of not being able to pay either rent or interest on the mortgage on the House, or to make adequate provision for repairs either immediate or future. Some of you are not doing that. We do not want Branches with Houses to think that in asking them to do this we are asking them to profiteer, but it is the only part of our organisation upon which we can or ought to make a profit. I think we are all agreed that the Houses should be self-supporting, and you are not self-supporting if you don't pay us the interest on your loans or mortgages or make ample provision for upkeep. It does not apply to every Branch with a House but it applies to a few, and I hope that those of you to whom it does apply will discuss the matter seriously and make an effort this year to put your finances on a proper footing.

Last year I dealt with the question of our new Headquarters and tried to justify the expenditure we had incurred in taking them. I think everyone who has seen the new Headquarters agrees that the taking of the premises has been amply justified. I am sure that the staff, from Peter downwards, are working under better and happier conditions, which enable them to give at least double the output they were able to give in the old premises.

We all agreed last year that we had the man power ; what we wanted was the financial power. We all realised that the membership of Toc H is made up of a very large number of men the majority of whom are not in a position to render financial assistance—as that term is generally understood—which would put us on our feet. That is inevitable in a Movement of this kind. Last year we made plans, and I told you we were going forward with a proposal to raise a substantial sum of money for our Endowment Fund. Almost immediately after we had plotted and planned to get that scheme going we had the General Strike, and for months we were handicapped beyond any chance of doing anything. As you know, I am an optimist, and I am likely to continue an optimist as far as the financial future of Toc H is concerned. But we have to face the fact that during the remainder of the year the spending power of the nation will be materially reduced, and therefore we cannot expect to gather in as much during the current year as we might have done but for the industrial trouble last year. Notwithstanding that, we must go on ; we must not hold up our efforts for raising money for the Movement. But it has made your Executive Committee definitely decide that they will not, for the time being, sanction any appointment or anything which will call for increased expenditure during the current year. Of course some people would say that during the past two or three years the Finance Committee

has been handling finances in a very slack way. Well, if we members of the Finance Committee had done what I suppose all Finance Committees ought to do, that is not to spend money or to contract to spend money until they had it, there is a lot of things which we have done which would have been left undone, and I for one during the last two or three years was not prepared to hold up the development of Toc H because we had no funds. But we must insist on going very carefully during the remainder of this year. We hope as a result of a scheme we are going to put before you to-day some definite move will be made to increase our finances. Last year on page 184 of the May JOURNAL was published a Resolution which read as follows—‘That the Central Executive be instructed to prepare a statement of the financial requirements (1) of the administrative staff and Padres; (2) of the Endowment Scheme, and to appeal to Branches to carry into effect the scheme so devised.’ We prepared a statement and published it in the JOURNAL of July last year on page 256 under the heading ‘Financial Requirements of Toc H,’ as you asked us to do. You will probably like to know what response we have had from Branches and Groups. I would ask you to bear in mind that no scheme works smoothly and easily at first, but, on the whole, I think the response has been very satisfactory. In the Report which was sent out this year you were given the following particulars:—Total number of Branches in Great Britain and Ireland 108; Houses 21; Groups 150; Branches and Groups overseas 85; Houses 5. Out of this total 79 Branches and Groups have promised by October next £871 9s. 9d., and have actually paid on account £310 7s. 9d.

In addition we do know that a number of Branches are working along the lines we indicated and have not yet had time to advise us of their efforts.*

We asked you through the medium of the scheme outlined to raise £2,000; you have promised £871, and there are something like 200 odd Branches and Groups to come into the fold. So you will see our estimate was not far wrong. Now everyone here can help very materially when he goes back. You were elected to the Central Council and sent here to represent various areas, and I think it would be a good plan if we sent you a list of the Branches and Groups in your area which have not subscribed or have promised to subscribe, and for you to undertake here and now to see the Secretary of every Branch or Group which has not subscribed and to ginger him up.

As to the *future*, the Central Executive has for some time past been very seriously considering this question of finance, and we have devised a scheme which we are proposing to put into operation immediately, and with which we are going to ask you all to help us. We are going to work

* An analysis of the numbers of Branches and Groups contributing, by Areas, and of the amounts promised and received up to the date of the Council meeting should be of interest to readers, and is set out below:—

Area.	Branches and Groups.	Amount Promised.			Amount Received.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.
London Federation	24	..	278 16	0
Home Counties	10	..	98 10	0
East Anglia	6	..	55 16	0
East Midlands	4	..	75 10	0
West Midlands	3	..	64 0	0
W. and S. Yorks	3	..	25 0	0
E. & N. Yorks and Lincs	4	..	18 11	9
Northern	3	..	35 0	0
Lancashire	5	..	73 17	0
Merseyside	3	..	21 1	0
South Coast	3	..	25 0	0
Wessex	1	..	10 0	0
West Country	3	..	25 0	0
Wales	1	..	10 0	0
Ireland	1	..	10 0	0
Overseas	5	..	54 18	0
<i>Total</i>	79	..	£871 9	9
					..	£310 7
						9

it from Headquarters for all it is worth." (The Hon. Treasurer then had printed proofs of a new eight-page folding pamphlet, entitled *Toc H Builders*, distributed to all those present. The essence of the scheme outlined in the pamphlet is that a large body of new supporters for Toc H should be enlisted. They are to be enrolled as "Toc H Builders"; they must believe in the idea of Toc H, but will not become, unless they wish, full members of it. At the same time, while they are not asked to pledge themselves to any service other than financial help, they will be kept in touch with the progress of the movement by receiving the JOURNAL and in other ways. The pamphlet, for the front page of which H.R.H. the Patron has written a special message, will soon be ready for distribution to members, and details of the scheme will appear in the JOURNAL.) "We at Headquarters," continued the Hon. Treasurer, "propose to do a certain amount of circularising throughout the country on very definite and carefully defined lines. The members of the Central Executive have undertaken to send this circular with a personal letter to everyone they know and to ask them to give the appeal their earnest consideration. What we want, in addition to our publicity work at Headquarters, is for every individual member to circularise his friends and acquaintances in his area. We must all make a concerted effort during the next few months to get this pamphlet out, and I ask you all to help us with this scheme during the coming year."

FINANCE : 2. *A Proposal.*

Before any discussion took place on the Hon. Treasurer's statement, E. T. ENGLAND (Exeter) proposed the first resolution on the paper, put forward by Exeter and Taunton Branches. The resolution, in full, was as follows :—

"Recognising—(a) the responsibility of each individual Branch and Group to bear its due proportion of the cost of the Movement as a whole;

(b) that this responsibility is the responsibility of each individual member in due proportion;

(c) the difficulty which many Branches and Groups and individual members experience in deciding what is their due proportion in addition to financing their own activities.

The Council requests the Executive—

(a) to establish a Budget Committee representing the Branches and Groups by Areas who shall receive from the Executive annually an estimate of the financial requirements of the Movement for the ensuing year, and shall fix the proportion thereof to be contributed by Branches and Groups and divide this proportion equitably amongst the Areas, bearing in mind the following considerations :—

(i) size, occupation, locality;

(ii) history, activities;

(iii) that *ceteris paribus* a Branch should be assessed slightly higher than a Group.

The Areas shall then immediately sub-divide their quotas amongst their Branches and Groups and inform Headquarters of the individual quotas.

If the above Resolution be carried it will then be moved :—

That for the first year only, unless an Area has a Federation Committee or decides otherwise, the oldest Branch in the Area shall appoint the Area Budget representatives who shall fix the individual quotas.

The MOVER said that he was not there to attack the Central Executive, still less the Hon. Treasurer. The Resolution seemed to him to arise very naturally out of Article XI. 3 (c) of the Charter.* It seemed to him and those he represented quite impossible for the Central Executive to lay down the exact sum which any Branch should pay. He was suggesting a pro-

* The section of Article XI concerned gives the Central Executive power to prescribe regulations as to "the financial relations between the Branch and the Corporation, including the contributions (if any) to be paid by the Branch to the Corporation," etc.

posal for their consideration which would make it possible for every Branch in the country to know what it was expected to pay from its elected representative. How would the proposal he was going to put before them work, if carried? First with regard to the Budget Committee. It would not be difficult to work, because there were thirteen areas, according to the Annual Report, nine of which had a whole-time staff. Powers were important. It would not be a new body of dictators; they would not have anything to do with the spending; they would consider the budget in advance, and it was an enormous gain to know ahead what they were going to be asked to contribute. They would not have any powers to over-ride the Executive. It was the business of the Central Executive to produce the budget, but it seemed to them of first importance that a small body representing the Areas should have it explained to them by the Treasurer before they were asked to meet the share which the Central Executive asked of Branches. He supposed it was inevitable that sometimes things would be put before the Budget Committee which at first sight that Committee would not be prepared to swallow, but there would be something extraordinarily wrong with Toc H if the Central Executive representatives could not convince the Budget Committee that they were wrong. If Branches had a grouse it would be difficult to get money from them; the only way would be to convince their representatives when you had them before you, and that could be more effectively done by an Area organisation for finance than by the Central Executive. What they should aim at was that the proportion which fell to a Branch should be regarded as a debt of honour (no one could compel a Branch to contribute), and there was no compelling force so great as the compulsion which a man put upon himself. There is a Branch meeting called to deal with the question of its contribution; the Secretary tells it that the Area representative is satisfied that the budget of the Central Executive is a sound one; that their Area is assessed at (say) £250, and that the share of the Branch is £10. He would assure them that they would be far more willing to pay an assessment put upon them in that way than under the present conditions. The Resolution was a friendly resolution and not a hostile one.

H. T. MICHELMORE (Exeter), who seconded the Resolution, said that its intention was to put Toc H finances on a more democratic basis. At present they were governed by a benevolent autocracy: they did not want to change that, but they had got to look ahead. It was not clear what was required of Branches by Headquarters—they were all in a fog about it. The Branches had never been consulted in advance as to the expenditure of the Movement and what was required of them, and until now they had never been asked to contribute anything definite to the Movement as a whole, and he rejoiced that Branches and Groups had now been given a chance to pull their weight. The Council could not go into budgets and things of that sort, and he did not think there was any other existing body sufficiently representative of the provincial Branches and Groups which could go into the matter and settle quotas. The Finance Committee was composed almost entirely of Londoners, and so there was no body truly representative of the provincial Branch membership on the question of finance. The suggestion of the Central Executive of £10 per Branch lacked imagination. The calls on the pockets of individual members in connection with their Branch work were simply insatiable, and he believed that the request was a widespread one for information as to what was their proper proportion of finance to Toc H as a whole.

H. U. WILLINK (London) said that, as a member of the Central Executive, he did not feel that the Resolution which had been put by the West Country representatives was intended to attack but to assist the Central Executive and Toc H as a whole. But he thought the Resolution came too soon in the history of Toc H. Toc H was a living organism and was not very old, and the elaboration of the scheme belonged to a later stage of organisation than they had reached at present. It was only ten months ago that the figure of £2,000 a year was fixed by the Central Executive as the amount which they hoped to get from Branches and Groups for Headquarter

unds. As far as this year was concerned there was every reason to believe that the full £2,000 and more would come in. The main objection to the Resolution was the assumption that a committee called the Budget Committee representative of Areas would be more capable than the Central Executive or the Finance Committee of saying what was the proper proportion of any given sum to be paid by each Area in the country. As regards Area representatives, was there any reason to believe or expect that the Welsh Area representative would know anything about the possibilities of Wessex? If he (the speaker), as a member of the London Federation, set out in conjunction with a number of people to say how much each Branch in London should pay, he would not know where to start at all. It was the same with individual members. Would anyone be prepared to say what some individual members of their Branches should be assessed at? The fundamental thing about the Resolution was that it was constitutionally in Toc H utterly and completely unsound. He was convinced that the Central Executive was about the most democratic body they could imagine. They had in the Council a completely elected body, and they had in the Central Executive a body elected by the Council. Contrast that with the Cabinet nominated by the Prime Minister. And yet they were told they were living under a benevolent autocracy! Apparently the object of the Resolution was that the Central Executive was going to be trusted to budget for the expenditure of the Movement, but that after electing the Executive some body of people was going to help it and consult it as to what the expenditure in the coming year was to be. They would thus have a system of dual control, in spite of the fact that the Central Executive is elected by the Branches. That was the fundamental defect of the scheme, apart from the difficulties of machinery.

P. W. MONIE (Hon. Administrator) said that when he read the Resolution the first thing that struck him was that the people moving it were proposing to alter the system which had been stuck to from the beginning. The Central Executive had the power to levy contributions on Branches and Groups, but they had never exercised that power. The appeal in July was not the first appeal they had made; there had been many more. They had asked for money but they had never assessed the Branches and Groups in any way. In this appeal they said, "We have been trying to push this Movement along because we know it is a good thing, and various windfalls have enabled us to do that in the past, but it is not likely to happen in the future, and we cannot appeal with any chance of success for outside help unless we can show that our own members are contributing what they can." They were not levying contributions on the Branches and Groups; they said, "Assess yourselves and give us what you can." They had always stuck to the voluntary system and they wanted to do so as long as they could. He would like to ask what was the point of the complicated machinery proposed if it was only going to pass on suggestions. Toc H did not like anything in the nature of red tape. The Budget Committee had to be elected separately; it set up completely new machinery, and they would have twice as much trouble as they had experienced in getting the present Council elected. If they counted for a moment Scotland and Wales as Areas, they had fifteen Areas outside London, which meant fifteen sets of elections. The London Federation would have to set up new Committees in London, and so they were going to have from fifteen to eighteen Committees in addition to the Budget Committee in order to discuss the question of what Branches should pay instead of the Branches themselves sitting down and deciding themselves what they could give. There were three fundamental objections to the scheme. If it meant anything at all, it meant abandoning the voluntary principle; it introduced into Toc H complication and elaboration of machinery, which he had been striving to avoid; and it cut right across the principle that Toc H is and intends to remain a family.

V. BELL (London, General) thought that Branches and Groups should know more of what their money was being spent on. He could not support the Resolution, however: they had a Finance Committee and they must trust it.

G. H. S. BURROWS (Reading) thought that the difficulty could be got over by each Branch discussing the matter, coming to a conclusion, and advising the Central Executive what they proposed to contribute. It needed no new machinery whatever.

E. GOODACRE (Lincoln) hoped they would stick to the voluntary principle, of which they were all proud.

A COUNCILLOR (South Shields, Durham, &c.) said that he belonged to one of the poorest Branches of the Movement; they had gone through one of the worst times of depression the North Country had ever known, and for that reason it was quite impossible for his Branch to contribute anything. As regards the Resolution, he was absolutely against any assessment being made on Branches, because he did not think it was the right spirit. He thought they should go along the lines of voluntary contributions.

G. MARLBOROUGH (Wimbledon) hoped it would be possible for the Executive to say year by year how much money they thought Branches should subscribe to the Movement and not to assess them, and at the same time give a short statement as to expenditure.

The HON. ADMINISTRATOR undertook that they would publish in the JOURNAL quite soon a short statement of the money they wanted for the coming year from Branches and Groups.

L. KENT (Radlett) thought it would be a pity to have anything in the nature of a compulsory levy: that was a method adopted by many societies, but it was a bad one. He added that if some members of the Headquarters staff could go down to Branches and Groups and explain the difficulties of H.Q. it would be very helpful. His own Branch felt that the burden of raising funds for the Movement should fall on the membership of Toc H and not upon outsiders.

The MOVER of the Resolution then said he wanted the Resolution to go through with the general approval of the Council. That approval was not forthcoming, and he therefore withdrew the Resolution.

The HON. TREASURER said he had welcomed the Resolution as a sign that Branches were waking up. He would like to make it quite clear that when they talked about contributions to Headquarters those contributions were not for the benefit of Headquarters: they were for the benefit of the Movement as a whole.

[During the tea interval which followed voting papers for the new Central Executive were filled in by Councillors and collected. The result is shown later in this Report. After tea the Council discussed the Hon. Treasurer's statement.]

FINANCE : 3. *Discussion.*

F. W. BAIN (Liverpool) felt that one thing should be said, and that was that the most important part of the finances of Toc H was entirely omitted from the accounts. It could not be done because they had not the staff to do it, but if the financial undertakings and the financial burdens of the branches could be shown it would make astonishing reading, and the general public seeing the accounts would get a very different idea of the contributions made by members than was revealed in the published accounts. He agreed with Hurst that they should go back to their Branches and emphasise the absolute necessity of maintaining Headquarters.

Padre R. H. L. SLATER (Northern Area) agreed that a complete balance-sheet of Toc H would include some account of the commitments of Branches in connection with their own work. He agreed also that it could not be done, but he thought it would be a good thing if a few typical cases were collected and included in the pamphlet *Toc H Builders*. It would at least show that Toc H members were contributing more financially than appeared from the published balance-sheet, and that the money they were asking for was not for Toc H members. There was a suspicion in the mind of the public that Toc H was one of those societies which said,

"We will do the work if you will pay us for it." It should be shown that members were giving a good deal of money in various directions as well as service. (The HON. TREASURER said that he did not deem it advisable to make the pamphlet any longer, but thought some instances, on the lines suggested, should accompany it.)

Rev. F. E. SPURWAY (West Midlands Area) said it appeared to him that the person to assess what should be given by the individual was the individual himself. One Branch in the Area in which he worked did that. They send round a piece of paper upon which each individual member wrote the minimum amount he was prepared to give. When it was added up it totalled, not £10, but nearly £130, which showed what could be done by that method. Half of this amount had already been promised to Headquarters.

TUBBY said he had had a very wide experience of the thing they were discussing. *Toc H Builders* was not a public appeal in any sense whatever; it was something quite different from that in texture. It was something which would bring in, by a tactful, understanding use, not just money but the minds and wills and love of people. He could tell them of case after case of people giving money to *Toc H* simply to please him or her who asked for it, and after a bit wondering where the money had gone to. They then looked at *Toc H* and saw that the thing was good. He could tell them of men whose lives had been turned upside down because they had been asked to give something to *Toc H*. He wanted them to feel about the appeal in the same sort of way, to realise that in introducing it to people they might be doing those people the greatest possible service.

The HON. ADMINISTRATOR then moved that the Annual Report be considered. On this no further questions were raised.

"HIGH-BROW" AND "LOW-BROW."

W. S. ARMOUR (Belfast) then moved the only other Resolution on the paper which was as follows:—

"To call the attention of the Central Executive to the ecclesiasticism of the JOURNAL, and also to the rule that all recognised Branches must have official Padres."*

The MOVER began by saying that he came there not to make an attack on what had been described as a benevolent autocracy. At the very outset he would like to thank Headquarters for having sent over to Ireland one, Sawbones, who had done more in Ireland in the time than any other visitor known to him, and if they had had Sawbones in Ireland during the last 700 years there would have been no Irish Question! With regard to the "ecclesiasticism" of the JOURNAL he tried to look at it from the point of view of the younger members. He had in his mind five *Toc H* Rovers who had done more for reformatory boys than all the churches in his city. Those young men had had an elementary education, and it was no reflection on them to say that most of the JOURNAL was Hebrew to them, especially the ecclesiastical points. Another young man, who had been described to him as one of the keenest men one met in any country, told him that last month's JOURNAL was simply "bunged up with piety," and that had disturbed him very much. Personally he had had to read some of the articles in the JOURNAL several times before he could see exactly their meaning. There were masses of words; in one article there were 94 words in a single sentence, which was rather trying! If the JOURNAL were simpler it would be read with much more pleasure and with much more profit by people who had not had a University education and were not theological students, but who were the greatest strength of the Movement.

He also desired to call the attention of the Executive to the rule that all recognised Branches must have official Padres. He had no objection to clergymen, but he thought a lot was expected

* It will be noticed that this Resolution deals with two distinct subjects, the first of which only was taken up by the seconder and in the subsequent discussion.

of a clergyman which could be done equally well by a layman. His own feeling was that there was not that distinction between Padres and lay members of Toc H as was sometimes inferred in the phraseology used. He hoped that in two or three hundred years clergymen and the like would be quite unnecessary, and they would be unnecessary if the Four Points of the Compass were acted on.

T. BAKER (Middlesbrough) said that his Branch had sent in an item for the Agenda, now incorporated in the Belfast Resolution: that item was that the JOURNAL was too "highbrow," which was another way of saying that the majority of the readers of the JOURNAL were too "lowbrow." He thought it was true to say of the average fellow who had received his education at an elementary school, or even at a secondary school, that his literary education and appreciation lagged somewhat behind other things, and apparently writers in the JOURNAL did not realise that. He ventured to think that the recent articles on "Rationalism," for instance, were above the head of the ordinary churchgoer; one could not imagine them being published in a parish magazine. They did not ask those who wrote for the JOURNAL to descend to journalese or to sacrifice their literary style, but they asked them to bear in mind the majority of the readers and to write on more simple lines. It would have been a great pity if some of the splendid articles published had been lost because it was not considered that the JOURNAL was the proper medium for them. Perhaps the problem could be solved by devising some other medium for them.

B. BARON (Editor of the Toc H JOURNAL) thought the terms of the Resolution somewhat misleading. What the mover and seconder were criticising was not the "ecclesiasticism" of the JOURNAL but the fact that it had too many articles on religion and was too "highbrow." "Ecclesiasticism" was not religion, but rather a kind of fog which sometimes obscured the religious sky—and there had never been much "ecclesiasticism" in the JOURNAL. There had been articles on the Christian religion because Toc H was based upon it. As for the charge that the JOURNAL was "highbrow," he would be very sorry to see everything in it made simple enough for the simplest reader—the pace of the fleet reduced to that of the slowest ship. He thought that most men preferred to be confronted by ideas a little too difficult for them rather than too easy. Men's minds like to be challenged and he hoped such a challenge would continue to be thrown down in the pages of the JOURNAL.

E. C. GARDINER (Cheltenham) agreed that it would be a tremendous pity if those who contributed articles to the JOURNAL wrote down to the lowest intelligence. He himself had had a lower middle-class education, and had started by reading the cheap stuff that came his way. Gradually he got hold of better stuff and read it over and over again until he understood it. Everybody ought to be able to do that. He hoped the tone of the JOURNAL would never be lowered in any way.

A. W. BERRY (Ealing and Hammersmith) said the two Branches he represented came to the conclusion that it was desirable that the standard of the JOURNAL should be kept at the highest, but that some of the articles were so complicated that it required a trained intelligence to understand them. It seemed to him that what they had got to do was to take certain of the "highbrow" articles and discuss them among themselves at their meetings and in that way try to understand them.

Padre SLATER said that the Movement needed the "highbrow" people, and that there was a real danger of keeping them out: there was a risk of Toc H being regarded merely as a blazer-wearing society. The "highbrow" people were not necessarily the people who had had a university education; they were often people who had come up against it in life. It was quite a wrong idea to imagine that working men had less intelligence than the City man—the clerk in spats. As a matter of fact many working men thought more, thought harder and more deeply;

and part of the reason for the class war was that such working men felt that those of the spats and ties were not thinking but were leaving the thinking to those who came up against it in life. He for one hoped that Toc H would carry on as it had begun. It began because something happened, and they had got to realise that something was still happening which was making a lot of people think.

H. U. WILLINK said they often found themselves up against people who made a very damaging attack on the credibility of the Christian religion, and most of them were very badly armed to repel such an attack. He thought the suggestion of Ealing that some of the JOURNAL articles might well be treated as subjects for Branch Study circles of extreme value. The articles on "Rationalism" up to the present had been models of compression, and they could be enlarged on in Study Groups almost indefinitely. If such Groups met with someone prepared to open with an explanation of those articles which could then be dealt with fully, they would not only be able to meet the attacks of the rationalist but the enquiries of the mystified, and they should be able to help the latter more than they were able to at present. It was up to the members of a Christian family to be able to defend their position.

F. W. BAIN said it seemed to him that they had to make up their minds definitely and clearly what they wanted the JOURNAL for, and how they wanted it carried on. To his mind it served two purposes. It was the only means of keeping the message of Toc H before its members, and as such it seemed to him ideal; it was also the one and only means of getting in touch with all the members. It gave month by month an account of the actual work being done by Toc H throughout the world, and he knew from practical experience that it attracted people outside Toc H and had created an interest in the Movement. If they were to spread Toc H properly they had to get it based in the minds and consciences of people outside, and he could conceive of nothing better than the JOURNAL, as it had been produced during the last two years, for that purpose. Personally he would like to express his profound gratitude to Peter Monie for his wonderful series of articles. Some Councillors had suggested that some of the stuff in the JOURNAL should be made the subjects for study circles. He did not know what happened in the rest of the country, but as far as his own Branch was concerned there was never a Branch meeting when those articles were not a subject for discussion.

T. BAKER, the Seconder of the Resolution, replying, said that it was not a question of the JOURNAL being written for the lowest intelligence. He did not suggest that because a preacher found a certain number of navvies in his congregation he should be expected to talk like a navvy. A sermon could be made intelligible to everyone in the congregation without losing its dignity. He was merely pleading for the happy medium.

PETER MONIE said he would just like to say one or two things, and one of them was that it was very difficult to strike the happy medium. Some people had implied that some of the things he wrote last year were too difficult or too "highbrow," but a quite serious group of people in the West Country felt that they were too hearty. (Laughter.) It was rather hard to tell what people wanted. It was all very well to say that that sort of stuff ought not to be put in the JOURNAL but ought to be published separately; the trouble was that if you wanted people to read it you had to put it in the JOURNAL. When he sat down to write the simplest thing he had ever written (*An Open Letter on the League of the Lamp*) he decided to publish that separately, and he did not think anyone had seen it. (Laughter.) As Administrator he had looked round in search of things that wanted doing. Quite seriously eighteen months ago he thought one of the things that wanted doing was to find someone who would provoke Toc H to think, to find a group of people who would encourage Toc H to want to learn to pray. He could not find anyone to provoke Toc H to think, and those articles in the JOURNAL was the method he employed. He could quite see, looking back, that in places he rather overdid it, but he was not sorry

one little bit that he had done what he wanted to do. Once, in India, he had been called a *lcoit*; he had in Toc H been called a *thng*, a professional strangler. (Laughter.) What the man meant was that Tubby went about stirring up enthusiasm and he went about strangling it. (Laughter.) But that was nothing at all to being accused of "ecclesiasticism." That was the unkindest cut of all! (Laughter.)

The MOVER then withdrew the Resolution.

ELECTION OF THE NEW CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

Immediately before the tea interval LORD FORSTER, who had been nominated for the Central Executive to represent the Wessex Area, rose, amid very hearty applause, to make a statement. He said he would be out of England during the coming winter, and he was therefore very reluctant to be nominated for the Central Executive when he knew he could not attend all its meetings. His love for Toc H was so deep, his belief in it so thorough, that he did not think he ought to take the job on unless he could see his way to doing it, and he thought it better if someone else could be found to represent Wessex, for this year at any rate. He had never had an opportunity of meeting all of them before, and he felt it a very great honour to be asked to take a share in the management of so great a society as Toc H. He had seen something of it in Australia, and he believed that the answer to Peter Monie's challenge in the chapel, so far as Australia was concerned, would be all that he would wish it. From what he had seen of Toc H in England he felt sure that its progress was sound and in ever growing volume in the right direction, and it was a very great honour to be associated with fellows like those present, who were responsible for seeing that Toc H went forward on the right lines. As no other nomination for Wessex was forthcoming, Lord Forster consented to stand. The Councillors then marked and handed in their voting papers. The result was as follows:—

London Members.

Rev. J. H. Bateson (*General*)
Sir Ian Hamilton Bunn (*General*)
David Boyle (*General*)
Dr. L. F. Browne (*Mark VII*)
J. H. Clark (*Mark VII*)
Beresford Ingram (*Brothers' House*)
L. Prideaux-Brune (*Mark VII*)
H. U. Willink (*Mark III*)

Outside London.

F. W. Bain (*Liverpool*)
J. C. Baines (*Leicester*)
W. H. Carver (*Hull*)
The Hon. H. S. Davey (*Bath*)
Lord Forster (*General*)
H. Leigh Groves (*Windermere*)
T. R. W. Lunt (*West Kent*)
H. Shiner (*Petworth*)

Ex-officio Members.

Rev. P. B. Clayton (*Founder Padre*)
Rev. H. E. Hubbard (*Hon. Admin. Padre*)
Wm. A. Hurst (*Hon. Treasurer*)
P. W. Monie (*Hon. Administrator*)

Co-opted Member: Dr. J. B. McDougall (*Maidstone*)

Note: It was announced to the Council, on the report of the "returning officers," that J. B. McDougall was among the members elected. A re-count, however, showed that W. H. Carver had received one more vote. J. B. McDougall was co-opted a member of the Central Executive on May 3.

RETIREMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN.

At the close of the meeting Tubby called the Council's attention to the fact that "REGGIE" MAY was vacating his office of Chairman of the Council and Executive on leaving London for Chester. He recalled to them the Chairman's services to Toc H from before the time when Talbot House was opened in Poperinghe. By the Chairman's request no formal Resolution was passed, but the members of the Council expressed their concurrence with Tubby's remarks in an informal but very emphatic manner.

TOC H WORK BY WIRELESS

THE name, and one aspect of the job, of Toc H is known right across Canada to folk who have no closer contact with the movement, through the monthly concerts broadcasted by Mark I, Winnipeg. By some of these the name of Toc H is not only heard with interest but regarded with real affection, for these form the special audience to which the Toc H "artists" address themselves, the particular men and women and children whom they have in mind as they speak and sing into the microphone. These are the people whom our Canadian members, in a vivid phrase, call the "shut-ins"—sick or isolated or bed-ridden or lonely people. Not only does the Branch produce its wireless concerts through CKY (the Winnipeg Station), but it produces also the means by which the concerts can reach some of those who need them most. It has a "Radio Division" (a "Wireless team," as a home Branch might term it), whose job of service it is to build or collect, to supply, fix and maintain the wireless apparatus which can open the world to the "shut-ins" and thus bring them out of their isolation into the life of the family from time to time.

From H. E. Toyer, Secretary of the Pinawa *Outpost* of Winnipeg Branch, we have received a copy of his report to Mark I (C) on "radio service." Pinawa, where this job of the Branch began, lies about 65 miles north-east of Winnipeg on the Pinawa Channel. It has a tiny population of about 50, and is the site of one of the hydro-electric generating stations which supply Winnipeg with electrical power. Two men there became interested in Toc H and joined the movement, and it occurred to them one day that it would be a fine idea if Toc H could instal wireless sets permanently at the bedsides of "shut-ins," in addition to the method, already in practice, of lending them for stated periods. But who was to tackle this big proposition, and how? After much discussion between them they decided that they might as well launch the scheme themselves and see what happened. These two therefore pledged themselves each to supply one wireless set per month "until further orders." They ordered material, built a trial set (variometer type) and forwarded it to Mark I at Winnipeg to be tested with the co-operation of D. R. ("Darby") Coats, the manager of CKY, the Winnipeg Station. "Everything went O.K." continues the report, "and material was ordered to build ten more crystal sets; things took on the aspect of a husky radio manufacturing plant in full swing. This first consignment of sets was sent in to Mark I, and was distributed among T.B. patients in the hospitals and elsewhere as permanent installations. They gave good service. By this time good-hearted friends became interested in our work, and some headphones (which had been replaced by loudspeakers) etc., were handed in to go with the next sets, Mark I supplying the balance as far as possible. This system continued for about a year, and during this period these same good-hearted friends showed such a keen interest in helping our work, that our sets grew from two to five and six per month. Our available supplies for building crystal sets finally became exhausted; at the same time it was becoming difficult to build this number of sets each month if they were to give steady, reliable service (we were now building the excellent two-slide tuner type) and have a neat appearance. We therefore decided to secure factory sets, if possible, and, through the kind-hearted co-operation of some business men in Winnipeg, a consignment of factory-built sets was secured at reasonable cost. These were dubbed 'Tanks'—and the name still sticks; they are the only kind of 'Tanks' we want to see, for they are designed only for spreading sunshine and entertainment. They have done excellent service."

"The Pinawa 'Outposts' are now supplying complete sets, *i.e.*, a crystal set complete with headphones. This has been found to be the best method, for it is practically impossible to secure the exact number of headphones to match the number of radio sets from various sources. By this method we secure a steady flow; our present output (January, 1927) is three to five sets per month. To date there are some 60 sets in Winnipeg, which will be increased to 80 or 90

by the end of the year." (A special report in detail by Toyer to the members of the "Outpost" shows that in 1925 the number of sets distributed was 25 sets, 10 "head-sets"; in 1926, 52 complete sets. Total, 77 sets, 10 "head-sets." The total investment for 1925-1926 was 268 dollars. The three members of the 'Outpost' in 1925 had increased to 10 in 1926.) "Toc H works in 'co' with many service organisations, and among these is the Canadian Red Cross, Manitoba Division, to which goes one set per month to be placed by Jimmy Young, Field Organiser, among T.B. 'shut-ins.' A simple method is used to maintain the service to Mark I. The sets are usually bought in lots of 15 to 25 and kept in stock. A card is kept with the name of each of those assisting us in this work, and we ask them to mark in the months in which they wish to donate a set. Magazines and other literature are enclosed with each consignment (shipped at the beginning of each month), and we try to send along a cheery letter whenever possible.*

"We feel highly honoured to be of some service in this particular branch of Toc H work for those who, through some handicap, are less fortunate than ourselves. The following letter (one of many) received from one of our 'shut-in' friends, a lady of 80 years of age, will perhaps give a glimpse of the wonderful appreciation of any humble effort on our part:—

MY DEAR SIR,

Your kind and welcome letter reached me. Words can't express my feelings of gratitude for the Toc H radio: to me it seems a blessing in disguise. I really was "intoxicated" over my new triumph on Good Friday. Could any human creature think at my old age I would have such peace and joy! Good Friday and Easter Sunday were a marvel. I never thought I would be able to hear owing to my deafness, but God moves in a mysterious way for us shut-ins. Now, take courage and be strong, and may God's richest blessing rest on *you all* while life lasts.

Thanking you all for your gracious gift—may it bring as much joy to all others who have received it as it has to me. Again, I thank you.—S. H. ("Grandma") KNIGHT.

"In closing, we hope that this little message of Toc H in radio service will help to awaken in the hearts of others, the world over, that feeling of understanding and love towards our fellow men and women who are waiting to receive it, and that before many moons have passed there will be hundreds of radio sets pouring into Toc H Branches and Groups, wherever they are established, to be placed beside those who at present most surely await a little ray of sunshine."

A NOTE ON WIRELESS SERVICE AT HOME.

Conditions in our own small thickly populated country, where almost every home now has its crystal or valve set, are, of course, very different from those in Canada. At the same time, much can be done—and in a number of places something has been done—by Toc H to help the "shut-ins." One London Group, for instance, has raised over £2,000 with which wireless is now being installed in a hospital, and a number of Branches and Groups are helping similar schemes. A correspondent in another London Group writes: "We have just been brought up against what we feel is the most pressing need for this invention—that is, for the sick and aged in workhouse infirmaries. These poor souls are well cared for bodily; but they are practically cut-off from any social life. They have little to look forward to but death, and practically nothing in their closing years to interest them. All Groups and Branches could do much for the institution in their neighbourhood." Surely we can all work miracles with wireless if we face the task in the spirit of the little "Outpost" at Pinawa. B. B.

* A specimen of these letters is attached to the report. It is headed *Pinawa Outpost, Mark I.C., Manitoba*, and runs as follows:—"Dear Friend,—I have just received word from Billy Dawe, of Toc H, Mark I.C. Winnipeg, that one of our radio sets has been installed for you. The Pinawa Outposts are very happy to learn that one of their sets has found its way to your home, and it is our most sincere wish that this little outfit will continue to give you good service and bring you a great many hours of entertainment and enjoyment. You will find that the CKY programmes are as good as can be found anywhere, and Mr. Coats and his staff are improving them as time goes on. It is, therefore, our sincere wish that CKY will prove a source of joy and pleasure to you, and that the efforts of Toc H and other artists whom you will hear over the radio, will be a great factor in brightening the long hours of winter. With all best wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity," etc.

SOME TOKENS OF GOOD EXAMPLE

As the months go by the old Church of All Hallows, by the Tower of London, already so filled with significant beauty by the centuries, receives more and more of the treasure which belongs to all Toc H. Of the "family" ceremonies held there since Tubby was inducted on the morning of Good Friday, H.R.H.

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years ago none has surpassed in beauty and meaning the event on the morning of Good Friday, H.R.H. The service was called simply "A Ceremony of Dedication of Some Tokens of Good Example." There were no less than seven of these "tokens" to be duly unveiled by the Vicar, dedicated by Neville Talbot.

Then Tubby, from the high pulpit, led those present to "muse upon time past, time present, and time to be"—remembrance of the countless worshippers in the thousand years "since this small rood of land was given to be a Freehold for God's People"; a call to duty to its present congregation; a reminder that "soon we are gone, and others come, and others after them; all pressing on, from source to rivulet, from rivulet to stream, from stream to Thames, from Thames to open sea: only God's Church still standing on this little hill for Christ and His Cross on Calvary." Next they were summoned to "fall to prayer" for Toc H and for All Hallows—

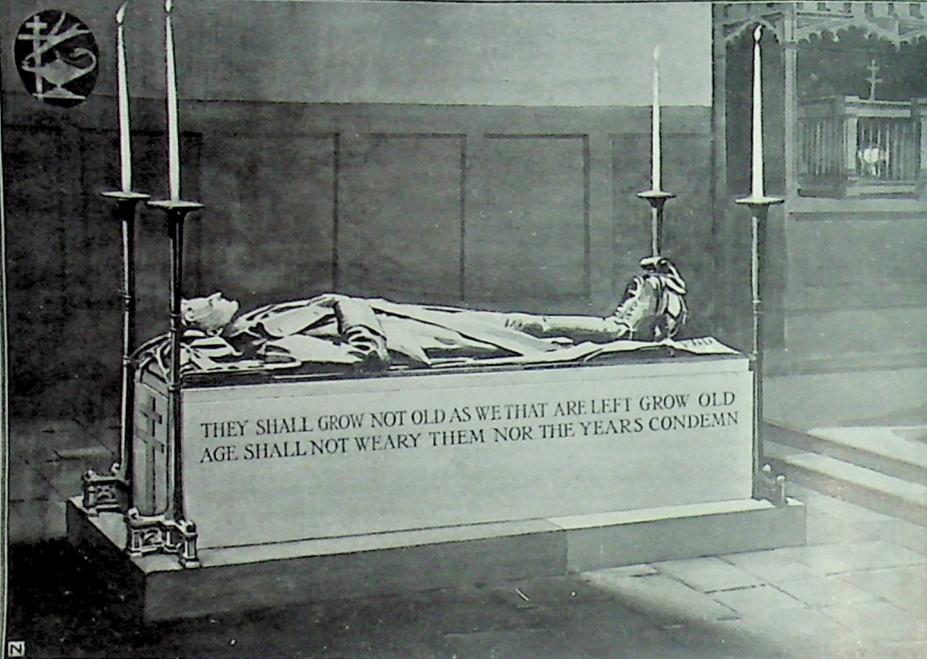
O Thou Who makest the morning, and the mid-day and the evening of life, hither let children love to come, and old folk, as Thy children, to praise Thee. Hither, each age in turn, may they be drawn by Thy love, and go hence with doubts resolved and faith renewed; their fears at rest, their courage high, their purpose firm, their sins dispelled, their hearts afame, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

Then, while *O Valiant Hearts* was being sung, the first series of dedications took place. The first four "Tokens of Good Example" go to increase the richness of Cœur de Lion's Chapel, the "Chapel of the Lamp." First there was the Casket of the Prince's Lamp, made yet more splendid with many new arms of Branches in glass and enamel now to be unveiled; next two flags which hang above the altar on either side—the tattered Red Cross flag which flew over Essex Farm Dressing Station in the Ypres salient and was brought home by one of our members, and the Ensign with the Southern Cross, brought over by the Australian delegates to the 1926 Birthday Festival; and, last but most significant of all, the life-size recumbent figure of Lord Forster's son, Alfred. As the bronze figure of a young officer lies there, upon the great stone in the centre of the floor before the altar, his clear, still face receives the first morning sun from the window eastwards—it may be that centuries hence the light will, day by day, be so rising upon it—and through this new and beautiful "token of Good Example" the whole place seems continually to be invested afresh with calm and the "sure and certain hope" of Resurrection. There is no name upon the monument—only the bronze Double Cross of Ypres and the familiar words of the Ceremony of "Light": *They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.* . . . This, then, is to be the token (Lord Forster, himself, wishes it so) not of one loved son only, but of all the Elder Brethren, known and unknown. Lord and Lady Forster themselves stood beside the figure as the blue curtains which veiled it fell away; the Prince stepped forward and laid a wreath of laurel at the feet; the four tall candles about it were lit; and Neville, standing on the altar steps beyond, dedicated it—"Make Thou this young son, whose life ebbed from him slowly, a heritage whereby new life may come to many men in many lands; through the Passion and Victory of our Lord and Saviour."



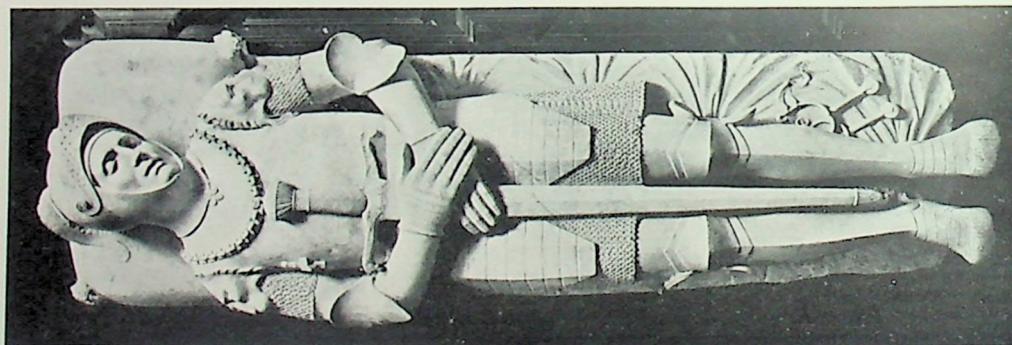
Bishop Neville Talbot of Pretoria stands before the altar of the "Chapel of the Lamp" in the act of dedicating the Forster Memorial. On the right (with the service paper in his hand) is H.R.H. the Patron, on the left (robed in a surplice) is Tubby and, behind him, Lord Forster. On each side of the east window hang the Flags to be dedicated—the Red Cross Flag from Essex Farm on the right, the Australian Flag on the left; immediately below the tip of it the pillars of Sir John Croke's tomb on which rest the Prince's Lamp and Casket, can be seen.—(Photograph by "The Times.")

The FORSTER MONUMENT in the CHAPEL of the LAMP* ALL HALLOWS BERKYNGE CHIRCHE



AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ALFRED FORSTER, Lieutenant, Royal Scots Greys, died of wounds near Le Cateau, October 17, 1918



GUIDARELLO GUIDARELLI, called "Bracciaforte"—"Strong i' th' Arm": killed in 1501.

It is natural, looking at this simple and noble likeness of a young soldier dead, to compare it with another and much older one, the very type of all such memorials—the marble figure of Guidarello Guidarelli, "Warrior of Ravenna." No face carved in the last four hundred years has had more power to move the admiration and pity of men. Guidarello was assassinated before his life's work for Italy was well begun; Alfred Forster died of wounds at the outset of his service for England. It was left to a sculptor to do all that lies in human hands to give each of them a true immortality in the eyes of those who come after them. Compared with the countless successive strangers who look down upon them, these quiet faces of marble and bronze "grow not old"; they being dead, yet speak.*

During the singing of the next hymn, *There is a green hill far away*, the Prince and Neville passed across the church to the South aisle. Here were three more "tokens" to be unveiled and dedicated—first the embroidered silk banner, sent by the Pennsylvania Society in America, to hang above the bronze memorial tablet to William Penn, who was baptised in All Hallows in 1644; then the newly discovered 14th century crypt, which has been re-conditioned and is to be furnished in memory of "Siddy" Hoare of Mirfield; lastly, a beautiful panel of stained glass set in the centre of one of the South windows as a memorial of James Crowther, "a true All Hallows man." These are "to bear witness to Statesman, Soldier, Steward, and, over all, to the exceeding great love of their one Master." The Crypt merits more description than can be given to it here and now, and may before long receive it in these pages. At present it contains the Carpenter's Bench itself and other furniture of the Upper Room at Poperinghe, which awaits the opening of the new Mark I; later it is to be completely furnished with true Franciscan things as a chapel of St. Francis for the use of worshippers who want a quiet place for their prayers. Both in its present and its future condition it must plainly be a wonderful place of Toc H pilgrimage.

The short ceremony, so solemn and yet so joyful, ended on the double note which is embodied in the ceremony of "Light"—Remembrance and Self-Dedication. For the first, Cyril Alington's verses about the Elder Brethren were sung:—

They trusted God . . . They trusted England . . .
And us they trusted: we the task inherit,
The unfinished task for which their lives were spent;
But leaving us a portion of their spirit
They gave their witness and they died content.
Full well they knew they could not build without us
That better country, faint and far desried,
God's own true England: but they did not doubt us—
And in that faith they died.

And for the second—our own share in the mission of Toc H—this prayer was said:—

Lord Who didst send Thy disciples before Thy face into every city and place whither Thou Thyself wouldst come, so prosper the work of Toc H and enlighten it with the everlasting Gospel, that when Thou comest, Thou mayest find all things ready, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit liveth one God, world without end.—Amen.

The service paper (a thing of real beauty, both in its words and in its printing, a possession of which members, not least those overseas, should hasten to make sure by writing to All Hallows for a copy while such still remain) ended with an appeal to "persons" and "purses." "Toc H," it says, "can use your minutes or fill your life. It travels best through your conversation, and leans upon your prayers. Say what time you can give, and it shall not be wasted." And it draws attention to the needs of All Hallows and, beyond those, to the financial struggle of Toc H itself.

B. B.

*The monument of Guidarello is supposed to have been carved by the Venetian sculptor Tullio Lombardo (died 1559); formerly in the church of S. Francesco, now in the Accademia di Belle Arti, at Ravenna. The Forster monument is by Cecil Thomas; it was exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1924.

SOME NEW TOC H LITERATURE

THE literature of Toc H has just been enriched by some memorable additions. These are, for the most part, not strictly "new," for they have been heard or read in various forms already, but in a new and convenient guise they come to us fresh and full of life and light. Every member in the world ought to read them as a duty and a pleasure, and he will find them invaluable as ammunition when Toc H is enquired about or attacked. In addition new pamphlets on *Building Toc H*, on *The Secretary in Toc H*, and on *The Lamp and the Rushlight* are in the course of preparation and will soon be issued. There should be no excuse for any member to feel himself defenceless when men ask "What is Toc H?"

The Smoking Furnace and the Burning Lamp. Edited by the Rev. P. B. Clayton. Longmans, Green & Co. 8vo. 144 pp. Paper Covers 2s. 6d. (2s. per dozen, plus postage, to Toc H Secretaries, for sale at 2s. 6d.) Cloth 4s. (4s. per dozen, plus postage, to Secretaries, for sale at 4s.) (All Toc H members and Secretaries should order through the Registrar at Headquarters).

This is a collection of twenty-two talks or sermons concerning Toc H, of which eight are by Tubby and the others by Bishop Talbot (late of Winchester), Padre Pryor Grant, Harold Hubbard, Muirhead Hope, Cyril Pearson, George Macleod, J. H. Bateson, F. R. Barry, and Dean Crotty and Archdeacon Darbyshire. The book is dedicated to Padre Herbert Fleming, "who not only loved men but liked them; and having ministered of the courage which comes from God, in Christ, went bravely all his days"; and the royalties on it, with other gifts, will go towards endowing a Toc H Chaplaincy in his memory. Tubby passes on the message of the Elder Brethren in words which no one, however tired of "war-stories," will read unmoved—read his Armistice sermon in St. Paul's, his tribute to Herbert Fleming and to Rex Burry, the youngest of them all, and the dramatic incident of Corporal Bradbear. He presents little living pictures from the New Testament in "Three Simple Things" (which so held members at the Manchester Birthday) and "The Emmaus Innkeeper." Up and down these pages this company of familiar writers spreads the Gospel, as we see it in Toc H—"spreads it without preaching it" in any narrow or conventional sense. Here is the deep faith, the progress, the hope of fulfilment in Toc H—in Scotland, in India, in Australia, in all the world—set down so that the most certain among us will rejoice to find things new and the most sceptical can hardly forbear to read on. The book is full of joy and of leading. It contains things of beauty beyond the ordinary: probably many will feel that nothing more beautiful has come from Tubby's mind and pen than his little litany of the prodigal son "on the road home" which closes it.

Toc H Under Weigh. By P. W. Monie. Published by Toc H. 8vo. 98 pp. Paper covers, 1s. (9s. per dozen to Secretaries).

This is the long hoped for collection of Peter Monie's articles on Toc H in this JOURNAL last year. They are reprinted practically as they appeared in these pages, and readers are asked in a prefatory note "to take them for all they claim to be—an attempt to 'provoke' members of Toc H to think harder about it." That object they certainly achieved in many quarters: it is not too much to claim that they have, more than any other words yet written, widened and deepened the conception of what Toc H is and might be in the minds of many of us. Most members have found them not altogether easy to read—they were not meant to be, they set out to "provoke" some hard thinking. But in their collected form they appear much more consecutive and therefore more easy to approach and enjoy. Members who have already read them should do so again in the certainty of finding new "provocation" to thought; Branches and Groups which have not yet tackled them together should take the collection as a book for corporate study. It is a gift to Toc H which should never, in essentials, grow out of date.

An Open Letter on the Common Rule of the League of the Lamp of Maintenance. By P. W. Monie. Issued by the League of the Lamp at Toc H Headquarters. 36 pp. 6d. (4s. 6d. per dozen).

This letter to an imaginary—but none the less real—“John” is not strictly new, but (as Peter himself raised a laugh by saying at the Central Council meeting) “no one seems to have seen it.” It is dedicated to Herbert Fleming because it was he who urged the writing of it, and first read it, and there is a wholly unexpected fitness about the date at the head of the dedication—November 16, 1926: on November 17 Herbert Fleming died. The letter is addressed to the young “ordinary man,” (the man whom our membership numbers in hundreds, if not in thousands) who is not very clear about his personal religious opinions and practices, but yet often longs to understand more. It sets out to help him, in the simplest way and with great insight and sympathy, to think about what prayer really is, and what it might mean in his own life, and how he may begin to use it best. This little book only needs to be better known to be welcomed by many.

MULTUM IN PARVO

¶ It will be very welcome news to all members—not least in Australia—that Lord FORSTER was, at the first meeting of the new Central Executive on May 3, elected Chairman. HARRY WILLINK (Mark III) is Deputy-Chairman.

¶ “UNCLE” HARRY and Mrs. ELLISON sailed on board S.S. *Montrose* from Liverpool on Friday, May 13 (lucky omen!), for Canada, where they will give a hand with the extension of Toc H and L.W.H. respectively.

¶ PAT LEONARD arrived at Albany, West Australia, on February 20, spent a few days with the Governor, Sir William Campion, and moved on to Adelaide.

¶ Congratulations to “TIM” (General Sir Charles) HARINGTON on receiving the freedom of York on May 3; and to Padre D’ARCY BLACKMAN (Norwich) on his marriage to Katherine Dorothy Robertson at All Hallows, Berkyngechirche, on April 19.

¶ Padre W. H. MADDOCK (late of Durban) has been appointed an Hon. Association Padre.

¶ The newly formed COUNCIL FOR TOC H IN IRELAND, Northern Section, (see p. 202) is widely representative of Northern Irish life. The Duke of Abercorn is President, the Lord Mayor of Belfast Vice-President; and among new members are the Very Rev. C. Crolly, Archdeacon MacNeice, Mr. “Joe” Devlin, M.P., the Very Rev. J. McKiernan, Dr. Livingstone (Vice-Chancellor), Col. Spender (Secretary to the Cabinet), and Senator Barbour (of Lisburn).

¶ MARK I has found a new home at last—at 24, Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, W.—and will soon be open again; meanwhile MARK XXII, which is in danger of collapse, will be closed.

¶ For the past two years Toc H has been sending one of its Padres every week-end, at the request of the Church Army, to take the SUNDAY SERVICES FOR THE BRITISH COLONY AT YPRES. The list is complete to the end of June, but Toc H Padres (of any denomination) who could help later in the year are asked to write to Alex Birkmire at H.Q. Padres leave London by the 11 a.m. boat-train on Saturday and reach London again about 5.30 p.m. on Monday; travelling expenses are defrayed, and hospitality in Ypres provided, by the Church Army.

¶ Among LONDON FORTHCOMING EVENTS are:—May 26, Ascension Day Corporate Communion at All Hallows, 7 a.m.; May 27 Secretaries’ Meeting in Christ’s Hospital Hall, E.C.3, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.; May 28-29, Job-masters’ Summer Conference on the Sports Ground, New Barnet; June 18, Sports Meeting, New Barnet.

¶ During the Week (July 11-17) following the Ypres Pilgrimage (see back cover) a CAMP FOR TOC H MEMBERS will be held at Hawk’s Hill, Walmer, near Dover, through which all pilgrims pass on the return journey: the camp is open also to all other members. Particulars from the London Secretary at H.Q.

σ Members working with boys, especially in the North, should hasten to avail themselves of the splendid opportunity of the TOC H STANDING CAMP AT WINDERMERE: they should write to Frank Walker, Cherry Tree, Windermere. Briefly, the *Site* is at Troutbeck Bridge, 1½ miles from Windermere Station; *Equipment* (8 bell tents, marquee, blankets, tables, cook-house, eating and cooking utensils, &c.) is all provided by Windermere Branch, but parties find their own fares and food and do their own cooking; the *Period* of opening is July, August, September; the *Capacity* of the Camp is about 45 lads and 5 officers.

σ Strong exception has been taken by THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN, with which TOC H is co-operating in many places at home and abroad and some of whose chaplains are TOC H Padres, to a paragraph in Padre Pryor Grant's article on *The Seagoing Boy* in the April JOURNAL. The Missions to Seamen has accepted the Editor's invitation to contribute an article to the series *Everyman's Story* in these pages. The last thing we all desire is any misunderstanding with those who are our allies.

σ Col. A. R. Oldfield, Hon. Treasurer of CHILDREN'S MEN, begs to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the donation of *Anon.*, Worcester, to the Children's Fund.

σ Attention of all members interested in Boys' Clubs is called to the recently formed NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BOYS' CLUBS, which is holding an interesting Conference at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, on June 17-20. Information can be obtained from L. F. Ellis (Brothers' House) at the office of the Association, 66, Avenue Chambers, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

σ All members are warned to beware of three men who may represent themselves as members of TOC H—ADAMSON, an actor, said to be of Hull; HUGH RAMSAY, said to be of Salisbury; and W. H. BROWN, who knows (and is known by) Headquarters.

σ Members are asked to note a reduction in the price of some TOC H LITERATURE (the *Masque*, *Birthday Festival Programme* and *Pictures*) in the list published in this number.

σ The next meeting of the CENTRAL COUNCIL has been fixed for Saturday, April 21, 1928.

σ SECRETARIES' LIST, April Alterations and Additions: (a) New Groups (at home): ABERDEEN, J. Slessor, 60 Sunnybrook Road; BRIDPORT, W. M. Jones, Police Station, South Street; BRIGHOUSE, A. J. Cooper, 2 Bradford Road; BURY, J. P. Howson, 186 Peel Brow, Ramsbottom, Lancs; CHELMSFORD, H. R. Morris, 11 Manor Road; DOVERCOURT, Capt. J. J. Statham, "Ricasoli," Highfield Avenue; EASTBOURNE, J. L. Hicks, 5 Grange Road; FREMINGTON, C. Dymond, Higher Court, Fremington, N. Devon; HANDSWORTH, F. G. Harrison, 78 Broughton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham; HEELEY, H. Rowe, 37 Artisan View, Heeley, Sheffield; PRESTON, P. Richards, 6 Starkie Street; SEDBERGH, E. W. S. Packard, Sedbergh School; STOCKSBIDGE, T. Vardy, Rundell Road; TRAFALGAR, H. Whitham, 18 Farrar Street, King's Cross, Halifax. (Overseas): BEIRA, H. R. Bennett, c/o The Beira Anglo-Belgian Co., Beira, Rhodesia; CALCUTTA III, R. W. Wordley, c/o Macmillan & Co., 294 Bowbazar Street; FALSE BAY, C. G. Langford, "Gavenwood," Loch Road, Kalk Bay, Cape Province; SEA POINT, L. Davy, c/o J. Dickinson & Co., Wale Street, Capetown; VERULAM, A. J. Thomas, Verulam, Natal.

(b) Change of Secretary (at home): CLACTON-ON-SEA, Capt. C. W. Cuthill, 46 St. Andrews Road; ISLINGTON, R. E. Walter, 120 Stroud Green Road, N.4; NOTTINGHAM, R. H. Evans, TOC H Headquarters, Normanton Chambers, 59a Carrington Street. (Overseas): BOMBAY I, G. B. Elworthy, G.P.O. Box 737 Bombay; CAPETOWN CENTRAL, Eric Dumsday, P.O. Box 2404, Capetown; GRAHAMSTOWN, R. Dugmote (no address given).

(c) Change of Address: ALTRINCHAM Secretary to 5, Greenway Road, Timperley, Cheshire; LOUGHBOROUGH Secretary to 89, Wharncliffe Road; YEOVIL Secretary to 19, Middle Street. NEW YORK TOC H Headquarters is now Cunard Building, 25 Broadway.

(d) L.W.H. A full list of Secretaries is printed on pages 207, 208.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

North-Western District

A District Guest-night was held at St. Alban's Hall, Golders Green, on March 31. Barkis spoke to members about finance and the need of a greater support of the movement financially by members. The attendance at the meeting was disappointing, in view of the excellent opportunity provided for members of various Branches and Groups to get to know one another. Golders Green provided refreshments and the collection (£1 18s. 6d.) was sent as a donation to H.Q. funds.

A small but keen few gathered on March 5 to hear Barkis expound Toc H to what it is hoped will become the WEST HAMPSTEAD Group. Eric Treacy, 24, Minster Road, N.W.2, is acting as convener of the members and contacts, and will be glad to have names and addresses of those in the neighbourhood who may be interested.

HARROW Group dedicated their Rushlight on March 28, and used the excellent form shown in the March Journal as in use in South Africa, Prideaux-Brunne, of the Central Executive, acting as bearer. The Group meets on May 9 and 23 at Foresters Hall, Crown Street, Harrow-on-the-Hill, at 8.15 p.m.

GOLDERS GREEN Guest-nights are at St. Alban's Hall, opposite the Hippodrome, on May 10 and June 13, at 8.15 p.m. They will be very pleased to see some of the many members resident thereabouts who belong to other Branches and Groups.

WILLESDEN will meet at 8.15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, to hear a talk by S. Harris on "Signalling on the Underground Railways," at the Scouts' Hut, Old Oak Lane. The profit at the Group concert was over £5.

HAMPSTEAD are meeting on May 6 and 20 at Denning Hall, Denning Road, Rosslyn Hill; on the former occasion to debate on "D.O.R.A.," and on the latter to hear Walter Ashley.

MARK VII Guest-nights are, as usual, on Thursdays.

J. M.

Southern District

The Southern District shared with the South-Eastern the great honour of a surprise visit by H.R.H. the Patron at 10 p.m. on April 5. H.R.H. went all over MARK III, and among several calls in the neighbourhood of the House visited the St. John's, Waterloo Road, Boys' Club, founded by Mark III in October, 1921. Our newest Group—DULWICH—is going strong. They had a Rushlight Dedication Service on April 4, attended by 30 members of the Group, and have decided—with the help of the House Governor of King's College Hospital, who is a member—"to make the support of and interest in the hospital the primary object of the Group's activities for the present." BATTERSEA AND CLAPHAM, on March 21, had a most successful evening, at which they entertained 60 or more of the Rovers and the older members of boys' clubs in their area. In addition to community singing, talks on Toc H were given by the Branch Padre and two other members—an Air recruiting scheme.

There are signs all over the district of increasing efforts to help the central funds of Toc H. CROYDON have adopted the 'duplex envelope' system. STREATHAM'S Concert Party is going strong, and the Branch is taking advantage of the spring-cleaning season to collect and distribute unwanted books for local hospitals, etc. NORWOOD is following up the lead given by Norwich and Leicester in helping the deaf, and is also working in close co-operation with the League of Nations Union for the Union's great demonstration at the Crystal Palace on June 18. Norwood is hoping to raise and organise 150 stewards for the London area.

H.

Western District

EALING.—We started the Lenten season with another "Smokers' fast," sending the money so saved to help the H.Q. funds.

An excellent talk, at which our L.W.H. Group attended, by a member of the Board of Guardians helped us towards further appreciation of a citizen's social obligations. We were glad to be at the District Guest-night at Hammersmith; the programme was spontaneous owing to the non-arrival of the speaker. At our last meeting before Easter we constituted the Branch a court, and, under the judgeship of a learned friend from the Bar, put Toc H on trial. A large number of very valuable points arose, which were fundamental—we shall pursue them further. Our first call to supply a blind man's visitor has been answered. Side by side with the small Scouter's novitiate courses which have been run, we are hoping to start a Toc H Rover troop, and on May 14 the Branch will be encamped at Crowborough. A. W. B.

London Sports Club

Rugger Section.—A keen and enthusiastic annual meeting was held on April 2. "Broch" (who was in the chair) and Nicklin (of untiring energy in looking after the needs of sportsmen) were elected vice-presidents. Eric Treacy (Hampstead) and Dudley Tailby (Barnet) were elected captain and vice-captain for the season 1927-28. Tom Beech, the hon. secretary, reported that a full fixture card for three teams had been obtained and fixtures for a fourth team for the first half of the season were being completed. A large influx of new members was reported and it is confidently expected that the present first XV will be playing for the "A" team next year. To enable contact to be kept with all parts of London Toc H, the following four were elected to the Club Committee: G. Batchelor (Mark II), F. J. Jarratt (Brothers' House), G. Carmichael (Mark I), and L. Green

(Ealing). John Mallet (Mark VII) was appointed Team Secretary, with Carmichael as assistant. Every endeavour will be made in the future to make the R.F.C. a first-class concern, as it is felt that a good rugger side (playing against schools especially) will create a lot of interest in the movement as a whole and get people whom a speaker might leave cold. The annual subscription is 15s.; those interested should communicate with T. B. Beech, 6, All Souls' Avenue, N.W.10, or with John Mallett, Mark VII. J. M.

Soccer Section.—An excellent fixture card is being arranged for the coming season, and three teams will take the field. Players are asked to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, S. M. W. Sheppard, 10, Mallord Street, S.W.3. Membership subscription is 15s.

Tennis Section.—It is hoped that five courts, in good condition, will be available at Barnet this season. It has been decided to arrange a tennis tournament there, and members interested should write to the Hon. Secretary, H. J. Mellows, Sidney Villa, York Road, Barnet. Membership subscription, £1 1s. od.

Sports Meeting.—The New Barnet Town Sports will be held on the Toc H Ground on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 2 p.m. There will be events open to all, and only to Toc H members and New Barnet A. C. members respectively. All Toc H entries should be sent to W. J. Muñoz, 1, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1, from whom particulars may be obtained. H.E.

Boys' Camp Ground.—The Camp at Barnet is now open every week-end. All applications should be sent to the Camp Secretary, B. C. M. Bomford, Mark VII, 15, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Home Counties Area

CANTERBURY.—We have recently assisted at a number of events, in addition to our stock jobs. On March 15 Dr. Beresford Jones spoke to us about blood transfusion, as a result of which a number of our members

have offered themselves as donors of blood. We provided stewards at a League of Nations meeting, and assisted at a sale of the work of the blind workers of Kent. The Branch has discussed the Fourth Point of the Compass,

and is unanimously in favour of the retention of the Fourth Point in its present form. On April 12 we held our Annual Re-dedication Service in St. George's Church. For the information of members who will be camping at Canterbury with the London Territorials this summer, our meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday in each month, in the Toc H rooms, over the baths in Canterbury Lane. Any further information may be obtained at Nos. 1, 27 or 103, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.

WIN.

FOLKESTONE.—The Group continues to make good progress, although we have not been very busy with corporate jobs of late, chiefly owing to the termination of the winter activities of the organisations we have been helping; we are now turning our attention to outings, etc., for the old people and poor children. Individual jobs are being carried out and the spirit of "Service" is being maintained. On April 8 we invited several ladies to our meeting to hear Padre Cawley (who came from London specially) give a splendid talk on the L.W.H. and its work, the result being that a Group of Toc Emmas is now in process of formation. Many interesting topics have been discussed and we hope shortly to have a talk by the Secretary of the Local Juvenile Welfare Committee; we trust we shall be able to assist this organisation permanently. We recently again helped the Rotary Club with their musical festival.

C. F. F.

GODALMING.—We started last December and are beginning to find our feet. Barkis came down in February and gave us a wonderful talk about the history and aims of Toc H, and also lit our Rushlight for the first time; some Guildford and Weybridge fellows came over. So far we have done a few small jobs, and five of the family are doing Scouting. One of our members has told us about the work of a Town Councillor, and we have discussed "Housing" and "Sunday." Our first supper in March, at which our Padre explained "Rogерum" (which, of course, we sang), was a great success.

H. S. B.

KESTON.—Our big Guest-night at the Schools in December was a good start for our reorganised Group. Since then we have had monthly meetings, as a few well attended meetings as opposed to very sparsely attended ones seems more advisable. We are running a weekly class for boys in carpentry and joinery, the Village Library, looking after the upkeep of the War Memorial, helping to patrol the Common on Sundays and Bank Holidays (persuading visitors to clear up their litter, not to light fires, &c.) and by degrees finding many jobs of service. We had a great Community Singing evening when Colonel Grant and a first-class leader (Mr. Woodgate from London) came down and helped us, an informal singsong at which most of those present performed in one way or another, and a most successful mock trial when our Jobmaster stood his trial for having "maliciously and unlawfully washed his dog, on February 31st, at the sanctified spot known as Caesar's Well, Keston Common, in Contravention of the by-laws of the Keston Parish Council." The jury after lengthy arguments by prosecuting and defending Counsels, and the evidence of many witnesses, failed to agree, and the prisoner was remanded in custody for retrial. Attendance at this last meeting went up to over 30 members. Later in the summer we are arranging for the entertainment on Saturday afternoons of parties of really poor boys from London, and shall provide sports, games, and a good tea for them, and stand them the journey expenses. A debate with the Women's Institute on a subject to be mutually agreed upon is also in process of discussion.

P. A. SLESSOR.

OXFORD.—In spite of the result of the Boat Race there is still a Branch of Toc H in Oxford. We have been developing slowly, but as surely as we can, our Jobs department, and our second "Jobmaster's Evening" held in March helped us to find out what is actually being done by the Branch, and gave individual members an opportunity of making known their experiences, their difficulties, their hopes, and their criticisms. We have now a closer

liaison with the Wingfield Hospital, and visiting and other help goes on there in vacation as well as in term. A concert party has been collected, which makes up in enthusiasm for what it lacks in finish. The annual Kiddies' Party held in January was again a roaring success, 100 children being entertained by the branch. The Rover Troop, whose active members now number something like thirty, is perhaps still the most solid bit of work we can point to, and is responsible for the existence of more than one of the Oxford Scout troops. *Guest-nights* every Tuesday in both vacation and term, at 8 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A. Any members visiting Oxford, which is an ideal holiday resort, should notify the City Secretary.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—During the past month the Branch has held a number of useful and interesting meetings, and the members have rendered service in the town in various directions. Great regret is felt at the departure of the Padre, the Rev. T. H. Groves, for Plymouth; he has been a true friend of every member and a loyal supporter of the Branch and will be much missed. Miss Fowler kindly arranged a whist drive on behalf of Branch funds which realised over £5. The Boys' Club has concluded its first winter's work with great success.

WEST KENT.—“*Jottings*,” No. 7, dated April 3, of the “First Countrymen's Branch,” contain over three stereotype pages of notes, with the Branch balance sheet, &c., for 1926 attached. The system of working adopted by this Branch (and described in the JOURNAL last year in three articles, now available as a reprint) appears clearly in these notes. Briefly, the Branch, scattered over a purely agricultural area and with few means of communication, is divided into “Wings” which have their own Jobmasters and, in some cases, secretaries, and which meet all together once a

quarter for a Branch “Rally.” Some points from the report are as follows:—There are now six Wings at work. East Farleigh Wing was founded on March 22. It meets on Tuesdays, whenever possible, and has four full members and seven probationers. Owing to its isolated position it is seeking to obtain a wireless set for beam transmission, so that it can keep in touch with the Branch as a whole. The next quarterly Rally of the whole Branch is to be held at East Farleigh on May 21. A quotation from the Parish magazine shows that the wing has already been able to revive the Parish Men's Club which was “down and out”: the membership of the club has increased “by leaps and bounds, and a much keener spirit prevails.” There is no direct news from Offham Wing, but “indirectly we hear great things.” Otford Wing members were the hosts at the Branch Rally, held in Otford Village Hall on March 16. Some 50 were present, and 24 members were initiated. Among the business discussed was a proposal to organise Toc H work on a county basis. The evening ended with an entertainment and refreshments. In Wrotham Wing Scouting “is now going strong.” Platt Wing held a concert at Wrotham Heath on February 21, with such success that members decided to form a regular concert party “for the benefit of any organisation in need of funds or entertainment. The concert party materialised and had a “try out” at King's Hill Institute on March 28: the evening was a great success,” and a repetition was arranged. The Wing will hold its meetings every third Monday evening until September. The Wing plans to hold a week-end camp for London boys, aged 14-16, on July 30-August 1, and for London children, aged 12-14, the following week. On May 16 Mr. C. H. B. Marcham is due to address them on “My five years as captain of the Kent County Cricket Club.”—[ED.]

East Anglian Area

FELIXSTOWE.—Since our last report we have given another concert at the Herman de Stern Hospital. “Dick” gave an excellent

talk on “Meteorology” which is to be followed by a visit to the Meteorological office at the Air Station. Several members

assisted in the final tournament evening of the session at the Boys' Club: we are hoping to keep in touch with the boys during the summer. With only one or two exceptions the Group will visit the Ipswich Branch to hear "Tubby" on April 22, and we hope to have him sleep in Felixstowe and breakfast with us in our meeting room.

R. G. WOOTTON.

IPSWICH.—At last a "home" has become a fact and we have held our first meeting therein. Tubby comes on April 22 and the official opening will, by the time this appears, have happened. There are signs of the beginnings of L.W.H. here which look very promising. Three of us went to the Norwich Annual Meeting. It was a beast of a night for some 80 miles in a motor, but we were

well rewarded. The Branch has recently had a brilliant discourse on "Municipal Government" from the Town Clerk of Ipswich. An ex-Mayor is one of our members and he confessed to having "learnt a lot!" C. G.

YARMOUTH.—Our meetings are well attended; the committee meets every week. The question of a permanent headquarters for the Group is being considered, but we have not yet arrived at a decision. On March 24 Councillor Ernest Bellamy gave us a very enjoyable talk on "the Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan," illustrated by gramophone records. We are arranging work with the Boy Scouts, and visit St. James's Boys' Club twice a week. With Tubby's visit close at hand, members are very busy. MABS.

East Midlands Area

NORTHAMPTON.—Hudson is now our President in succession to Eric Dawson who has departed from amongst us. February 23 we helped at the Waifs and Strays Bazaar at the Town Hall. We had the pleasure of a talk from L. Vincent Davis on March 9, and

on March 16 we initiated six new members. We have now adopted a scheme to make our Branch self-supporting, *i.e.*, that members in addition to their annual subscription shall contribute one day's pay per annum which will bring in a useful revenue. R. L.

West Midlands Area

RUGBY.—We held a successful dance in February and the help given by the Coventry Toc H Orchestra largely added to the success. Recent talks on "Glimpses of the Future" by Mr. F. Unwin, the "Coventry Watch Industry" by "Barney" of the Coventry Branch, and a debate have been much appreciated. On April 1, six members were guests

of the Rotary Club when our Branch Padre told the story of Toc H and the work of our Branch. We held a successful rummage sale for funds on April 2. Our concert party have been active at the U.S.F. Home and Scout concerts. We are ticking off the days until Tubby's visit to us on May 19, when we hope to learn much. JUMBO.

West and South Yorks Area

West Yorkshire Federation

During May was held at BRADFORD an Area Guest-night, at which the chief speaker was Gilbert Hair, who has just arrived at the Wakefield Prison from a post on the staff at Durham Gaol. He gave an interesting talk on prison life and the possibilities of discharged prisoner welfare work; particularly were we interested in his talk about

Borstal boys. Surely more work will be done if Toc H in the West Riding can have more of this kind of talk. Our old friends, Carlton Taylor, Davison of Mirfield, and "Avec" also spoke, whilst "Blazer" (once of Sheffield, now of Leeds) gave an interesting outline of the development of the Red House Settlement at Leeds. We begin to feel that the family spirit is bigger than our own units!

LEEDS is now very active, and all members are keen. There is a membership of about 60, and at a recent meeting the advisability of forming groups in the suburbs was discussed. It was pointed out that with roughly 40 people attending meetings &c., the proceedings became too formal, and it was difficult for members to know intimately every one else in the Branch. A resolution was therefore passed that groups be formed in various districts, present members for those districts forming a nucleus for the local group. There is already promising material in Burley, Buslingthorpe and Roundhay. The big job of the Branch is the Red House Lads' Club, and 'Blazer' has already done great work there. Another corporate job is the Hospital Library Scheme; the Branch has already undertaken to supply four hospitals, and any Branch having any books or magazines to dispose of is invited to send them to the Leeds Secretary. Other jobs being done by the branch are personal service visiting and Prison Visiting at Wakefield and Armley.

The Federation has recommended the recognition of a new Group in HALIFAX which has chosen for itself the name TRAFALGAR. Many will be interested in this new venture which has for its Secretary "Avec" Whitham, one of the earliest of the Yorkshire stalwarts. The only new things at Mark XII is a new tennis court. This has been laid not so much because we want to play tennis as because it was the easiest way of covering up an eyesore in the grounds. No longer can cars be parked at a modest charge of a bob when Royalty visits us; instead you may play a gentle game for a small sum.

HUDDERSFIELD has decided to try to make itself, but chiefly its message, felt in the town and has accordingly developed a scheme of meetings, preachments, and personal visitations, with this in view. During the next few weeks it is hoped that several articles will appear in the local Press, the object of which is to answer the question in many people's minds—"What is Toc H?"

BRIGHOUSE now has its own group, which held its first initiation service last week.

It is too early yet to predict what line of action this new Group will take, but it is beginning on right lines and will have the support of every member in the Federation, particularly of the LIGHTCLIFFE Group which is, for the time being, acting as "nurse."

South Yorkshire Federation

The outstanding event of the month at SHEFFIELD was a *Jobmasters' Conference*, at which the speaker was W. E. Dixon of the Council of Social Service. Although a member of the Sheffield Branch, Dixon has travelled about the Yorkshire Branches a good deal and his criticisms and suggestions are well worth our notice. He asked us to put three questions to ourselves, which were, (a) Have we got the men and material for the jobs we have undertaken? (b) Have we got enough discipline in our Branches and Groups? (c) Have we got general acceptance of Toc H ideals in our own units? He urged that we do not lose sight of the high Toc H ideal of service, that we really study the work we set out to do, and that we develop a critical outlook. This Conference was the outcome of the appointment by the Federation of an Area Jobmaster, and so successful was it that it has been decided to make a *Jobmasters' Conference* a quarterly event.

The Sheffield Groups, WALKLEY, WEST SHEFFIELD, NEEPSEND, and HEELEY, are all going quite well. Walkley has found itself a new Headquarters, for which, in spite of high rent, the members are profoundly grateful. In discussing the rent, the Group scribe said that it was not so high as their heartedness. Concerts are being arranged for the children of the neighbourhood in an endeavour really to get in touch with them. Neepsend dedicated a Rushlight to their use and themselves to the high ideals of Toc H at the beginning of April.

CHESTERFIELD is busy with a Hospital Library for the nurses and patients of the Royal Hospital, and so far there has been so much success that the Group contemplates instituting another one in the local Sanatorium. There is an amazing Everybody's Club in

Chesterfield which really has a department for everybody, and the Group is getting very interested in work in this Club.

ROTHERHAM is making steady progress, a particularly notable feature of their meetings being discussions of the Four Points. Arising out of the first talk on Fellowship, a "fellowship half-hour" before their Guest-nights is being developed. The Branch proposes during the summer to ramble to other Branches and Groups in the area, even as far afield as Chesterfield.

On a Sunday in May the HOYLAND AND ELSECAR Group is going on a man hunt on the principle that the mountain must come

to Mahomet. In these mining districts Toc H is viewed for a long time with considerable suspicion, but when they do at last accept it there is no half-heartedness about the embrace of the miner and Toc H.

A Group at STOCKSBRIDGE which has been in process of forming for a very long time has at last been encouraged to try itself out, and it is to be hoped that ere long even the umbrellas we buy from Fox's will be the more weatherproof for their having been handled by the Toc H men of Stocksbridge, where, as all the world knows, there are three miles or so of works erected for the production of the "clergyman's friend."

East and North Yorks and Lincs Area

GRANGETOWN.—In March the Group held a most successful concert, part of the proceeds of which went to buy a bed for an invalid in the town; during the interval "Dusty" Miller, our Area Secretary, spoke on Toc H. At a recent Guest-night a non-member of Toc H who knew Poperinghe intimately during the war gave us a good picture of the Old House in those times. He emphasised the fact that even if he could help every Branch and Group of Toc H in the country, he could not pay the debt he owed to Talbot House. Attendance at our meetings, except when shift work intervenes, is consistently maintained. We are having collecting boxes suitably inscribed with the Toc H motto to be distributed among members in order to help H.Q., and offer this idea to other Branches and Groups. Our Padre, Bob Culmer, is shortly leaving for Australia. He has been a great source of inspiration to the Group during its short existence; we are very sorry to lose him, and congratulate Toc H Australia on an acquisition.

GRIMSBY.—We have some most gratifying news this month. After spending months looking for a Padre, one (Rev. E. R. Baraclough) came and delivered himself up to the Group, and we safely "chained" him. A week or two after another was caught (Rev. W. Clarkson, who has been a general member since 1922, so we believe, but is now going to be very active). We have still another "watching the bait," and so it never rains, &c. Nearly every meeting sees one or two new faces; we have now quite a number of probationers, and we hope to maintain this progress. Our new money-making scheme is proving a huge success. In fact, through it, we have now taken a home of our own, wherein, besides a meeting room, we hope to have a Chapel. Everybody will be busy during the next week or two, painting, &c., and we hope to move in some time in May. Our Boys' Club is still finding work for most of us, and we are trying now to prepare a summer programme for the boys. Work has also started in earnest for the Lincs Federation Boys' Camp. H. J. S.

Northern Area

CULLERCOATS: *The Jobmaster's report for March shows a variety of jobs in progress: The Group was asked to investigate the history of a couple in North Shields and did it;*

nine prospective emigrants, whose names were given to them, were followed up by two members; a Group member in hospital had his garden dug and looked after by four

fellow-members. The Newcastle Pensions Hospital has been visited; and three members are going over weekly to the new Deaf and Dumb Club at South Shields, while twelve deaf and dumb people in North Shields have been visited.

HARTLEPOOLS.—Our Boys' Club is going well, and in connection with this we have started Football and Harrier teams, and we intend to run Cricket and Swimming teams during the summer. Our other corporate jobs are being carried on successfully, plus odd jobs which come along from time to time. Two of our fellows were at the Northern Conference which they voted as excellent, and one of them gave a paper on the Conference the following week. It was followed by a lengthy discussion, the outcome being that the Committee was instructed to prepare a scheme for the raising of funds for H.Q.: it is more than probable that the Newcastle Envelope Scheme, with limitations, will be followed.

SCOTTIE.

HEBBURN - ON - TYNE.—Recently we have had some good talks; Dean Crotty was a welcome visitor to our quarters and gave an inspiring address; among other speakers have been Padre John Daly (South Shields), "Cruicky" (Cullercoats), and "Painter" and "Knocker" (our own members). In April we held a "Squash" night and had as our visitors the local L.W.H. members, Padre Slater and others from Newcastle, and members from Felling. We took this chance of making a small presentation to our Padre, "Vic R.," who is about to leave us for Newcastle Cathedral; he was our original Padre, who has done great service and we are very sorry to lose him. FAIRY.

ESTON AND NORMANBY.—We have been going a year as a Group, but this is our first appearance in the JOURNAL news. At the end of the year we had to say farewell to Padre "Cyders" (Sidersin), who has gone to take up the job at Mark XI, Leicester. Last month we had our first visit from "Brass-hats" in the persons of Padre Garaway and "Dusty" Miller from Hull, and their visit did the Group good; next month the Teesside Conference meets in our Room. We are always on the look-out for jobs and, in spite of shortcoming, have received some very cheering letters from those for whom we have tried to do them. *Meetings every Tuesday evening.*

JOBMASTER.

SOUTH BANK.—On February 28 Padre Garaway gave us much to think about—especially about "Badgers"—i.e., members who wear a Toc H badge but keep every kind of engagement except Toc H ones. A red-letter day was March 7 when our annual Service of Re-dedication was held in the Parish Church. Members of local Branches and Groups took part with their Lamps and Rushlights in the ceremony of *Grand Light*. They marched up to the chancel to the "Pilgrims' Hymn," and South Bank members renewed their pledges while Kipling's "Recessional" was being sung; Padre Baddeley gave the address. A family party followed, at which L.W.H. helped much: local residents complained of "foreign scamen" singing their national songs at 1 a.m.! On March 31 Mickew Wright of Middlesbrough gave us a very clear explanation of "The Fisher Act of 1918," and on April 7 Mr. Cocker spoke on "The Race Question."

DAVIES.

Lancashire Area

MANCHESTER, MARK IV.—Rover George Muller spent a few weeks with us before sailing for South Africa, and another old hosteller, Charles Sparrow, has returned to Canada. In answer to an appeal from the Royal Infirmary several members have volunteered for blood transfusion. Our concert

party have given one concert to the Blind and one to the inmates of the Manchester Union. Some of our members who visit Grangethorpe Military Hospital handled the job of helping a discharged patient to Bolton Group; within three days Bolton reported that they had visited the man, brought his

case to the proper authority, and that their L.W.H. were looking after his wife and children. The promptness of this made us glad. On May 29 Sheffield members join us for a ramble in the Peak District. C. T. H.

POYNTON.—We have been fortunate in having loaned to us a room, where some time ago a Lads' Club was run. Six of our members have re-started the club on two nights in the week. Twenty-five names are down for membership of the club, and we are hoping to give a Gym. display this summer. We held a concert in the village and raised over £12 to help put the building in condition. Padre Ted Davidson came and dedicated the annexe used as the Group's meeting room, and gave us a splendid talk on Toc H and Religion.

F. E.

STOCKPORT.—We have moved into some excellent rooms at Trinity House. Our membership has increased slowly of late, but, with the influence of the "Pilot," we have obtained some very fine fellows. We are getting on with the job of providing wireless sets for the Blind, and have raised about £45 towards this fund; by this time shall have installed about 25 sets. Several of our fellows are helping at the local Lads' Club, and we hope to get most of our boys for our Camp from this source. The week-end Boys' Camp promises to be a bigger success than ever this year as we have twice as many fellows to run it as previously. We are also visiting the local Disabled Soldiers' Hospital. On May 21 the next Area Conference is being held here and we are looking forward to a good muster. FRANK G.

Mersey Side Area

WATERLOO (Liverpool).—On March 4 we had a visit from H. Lethbridge ("Pharaoh") of Liverpool Branch, Warden of the Gordon Lads' Institute, Kirkdale, who gave us a fine talk on "Scouting" which is likely to bear fruit. On March 24 we held a special service in Christ Church for the dedication of our banner. The form of service, which included the ceremony of *Light*, was based on the

"Pilgrim" service used at Birthday Festivals; the address was given by Padre McGowan (Southport). The large congregation included members from Liverpool, Southport, Birkenhead, Wigan, and Salford. We hope the service, very beautifully carried out, will both have inspired our members to still greater effort and the people of Waterloo with interest and sympathy for Toc H. P.

South Coast Area

HASTINGS: *Extrait from a letter to the Hon. Administrator from the Hon. Secretary of the Branch*: "We had quite a good time on April 6, when the Patron paid us a visit. Some members came over from Bexhill and Eastbourne. We had coffee and biscuits, and carried on just the same as an ordinary meeting, and I think he appreciated it and was glad to get away for a quiet fifteen minutes.

The fellows went on talking just as usual, after the chairman's half-minute speech of welcome, and the Prince had a couple of cups of coffee and talked to one or two of the members. He did not seem at all in a hurry to go, and told me he was very glad to have come and seen us when we saw him into his car. We made it quite informal: we thought he would like it that way."

Wessex Area

SALISBURY.—Our winter season terminated with a series of whist drives which were held monthly; a successful dance was held in the New Assembly Rooms in mid-February.

We received a visit from Col. Grant early in February and a few days later from Barclay Baron, who gave an excellent address on Toc H at the Brotherhood gathering on the afternoon

of Sunday, February 13. At the end of March we held another Guest-night, Mr. Herbert Hankey, the local Probation Officer, giving

an interesting talk on "Police Court Mission Work." Three new members were initiated and six enrolled as probationers. L. C. B.

Scotland

GLASGOW.—Our new Groups are thriving, healthy children and are now taking nourishment on their own account. Representatives of the Branch have attended all Group meetings and have brought back very favourable reports of progress made. The nucleus initiated by the Branch now form, in each case, a working committee, and when the promised Rushlights arrive, the Groups will be quite independent. The experiment of a mid-week, instead of a Saturday afternoon, Kiddies'

Parlour was tried, but the Saturday is considered more suitable. Our winter programme is now complete; the last speaker has "said his piece" and the curtain rises on a very full summer scheme. The work for cripple kids and other social activities go on without interruption, and in addition the Branch will disport itself in the following ways: five evening rambles, one boating evening, one tennis match, and one cricket match versus Coatbridge Group.

I. M. M.

Ireland, Northern Section

A Council for Toc H in Ireland, Northern Section, has been set up, and an Executive Committee and Finance sub-committee formed. His Grace the Governor (Lord Abercorn), prevented by illness from attending, sent a warm message; the Lord Mayor of Belfast presided, and the Committee elected desired to meet after the conclusion of the Council meeting. In the three towns visited outside Belfast there was an immediate response, and there seems no doubt that the movement will spread, if someone of the right type can be found, free to devote himself to the work, and minimum financial provision can be made. Meanwhile we await formal sanction.

Outside Belfast we held a meeting in LISBURN on April 22. About fifteen gave in their names at the end, and to-night there is to be a further meeting on the subject: four from Carrickfergus Group helped to swell the Lisburn Meeting. To-night there is also to be the inauguration of a Group in LURGAN, Co. Armagh—so with two outside gatherings in one evening we are fairly busy.

At BELFAST on March 15 Mr. G. C. Beadle, Station Director, spoke on "Broadcasting"; on March 29 Staff Captain Mrs. Field told us of "The Salvation Army" (Everyman's Story No. VI), while Major Hearle,

D.S.O., R.A., followed on April 12 with No. 7 of the same series—"The Army." Osborough started a discussion on April 13 on "Is the basis of Toc H practicable?"—III. Spreading the Gospel without preaching it." Negotiations are proceeding with the Red Cross for a joint scheme of Hospital Libraries. The Scout Troop at the Reformatory is promising. A semi-official letter cites a testimony from a chaplain as to our activities in Prison, and the great interest taken in them by the prisoners: "The improvement in the tone of the Prison as a result is quite remarkable." A visit to the barracks is contemplated this month. PAT.

CARRICKFERGUS.—Padre Paton and a contingent from Belfast visited us on February 7, when members were initiated at a most impressive ceremony. Mr. J. D. Gamble addressed the Group on the work of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society on February 14, with the result that two of our members took charge, as organising secretaries, of a house-to-house collection. The Group was represented at the Belfast Branch missionary efforts at Lurgan and Lisburn. A successful public meeting, addressed by Young (Mark VII) was organised on behalf of St. Dunstan's.

JIM.

News from Overseas Branches and Groups

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA: *The March number of The Link reports the first Week-end Conference of the Groups in the State of Victoria. What follows is an abridged version of the report:—* The Conference met on February 12-13 in a camp on the property of Mr. Thomas Baker, a Senior General Member of the Central Executive of Toc H Victoria. The President, Lord Somers (Governor of Victoria), and several other Senior General Members stayed at Mr. Baker's house, "Manyung," and took part in the Conference. The three-fold object of the Conference was to promote the fellowship between the Groups, to discuss practical points affecting Group life, and to study the Four Points of the Compass. The camp was pitched on a headland overlooking Port Philip Bay, with a fine bathing beach just below and a picturesque coastline stretching away on either side; in such a spot it was little wonder that the atmosphere of the camp was one of calm and happy fellowship. Opening the first session, Padre Henderson likened the job of those present to that of a plumber, the job being to capture the "steam" generated in the form of enthusiasm, to hold it firmly as "power" and to guide it so that it would do most good. Turning from the figurative to the literal, he defined the object of the Conference as being to devise means whereby the present small family of Toc H should develop into a national force. Dwelling on this point he instanced the small numbers of men who had been responsible for the beginnings of other spiritual movements: "God works among men through faithful men gathered together in little groups. In your good moments you are no less than God in action. . . . Being what you are, how best and most fully can you become God in action? . . . His call and spirit go forward through men at work. Go and seek the work that He is going to do through you." An entirely impromptu discussion on Group life followed. As regards membership standards

it was agreed that, while the standard should be kept high, it was inadvisable to make rigid rules as to time of probationary service, jobs done, &c. The case of students was discussed at length in this connection. Among suggestions with regard to Group meetings were these—that a short explanatory talk, given by members in turn, should precede *Light*; that it was easier to draw members out and make them talk if lights were dimmed; that combined Guest Nights of Groups should be held, and that every member should try to attend the meeting of some other Group at least once a month. Prayers led by a lay member closed this session. Sunday began early with a service in the open-air. After breakfast the Conference divided into "circles," each of which discussed, independently of the others, one of the Points of the Compass. The way in which each circle came back again and again to the same fundamental issues as the others was remarkable; and when Albert White arrived from Sydney it was found that he had been jotting down many of the same ideas in the train. (Reports on these "circle" discussions will appear in the next four numbers of *The Link*.) On Sunday afternoon the Conference met in the ballroom of "Manyung" to discuss briefly with the Senior General Members staying there the co-operation of General Members and Groups. All the senior members present expressed their desire to work more closely in contact with Groups, and it was proposed that General Members should be attached to particular Groups. The final session was held on Sunday evening and summarised the discussions of the day. The prayers which closed it were led by a lay member "under a wide and starry sky," with the shadow of the lighted Rushlight inside the marquee thrown on the canvas wall against which the party was gathered together. There was long and deep talk round the camp fire that night, and early next day camp was broken in record time.

NEW ZEALAND

CHRISTCHURCH.—Since our last report we have grown steadily in numbers and fellowship. At our Birthday Festival in December we mustered some twenty-five on the Sunday afternoon who joined in the form of service used in London in 1925; on the Saturday before, we entertained a number of prominent people, who were moved to pay tribute to the services of the Group in Christchurch. For the last eight months we have had a large well-furnished room for one night a week. Our original plan was to have a Guest-Night once a month and a Group meeting once a fortnight, but in practice ten to twenty members and probationers turn up every Monday night, and our meetings grow more and more varied and interesting. We have heard talks on China and India; "The Defence of New Zealand," by Major Ashworth of the Imperial Defence League, balanced by W. T. Airey, of the League of Nations; The Methods of Fighting Pestilence,

by Col. Dawson, Government Health Officer; The Needs of the Y.M.C.A. and of the Orphanages. We met each time round the Rushlight; the JOURNAL grows deeper into our Group life. We have greeted Toc H giants in Sir Charles Fergusson (our Governor-General), Dr. Jones of Bournemouth, the Earl of Cavan, the Bishop of London; Mrs. Horsburgh brought us a message from Headquarters; Pat sent us the music of *Rogerium* and (we hope) will soon visit us; Tubby has sent messages, direct and indirect. Our work, if a somewhat pale reflection of our fellowship, grows in scope. Faithful service has been done in assisting medical relief of the poor, catering for orphans in clubs and camp, scout work, hospital visiting, etc. We are the uttermost Group in the world, but we realise that our light is fed by the vows and prayers of many at the world's heart, as well as by our own inadequate strength.

O. W. WILLIAMS.

INDIA

BOMBAY, GROUP I.—At a recent Guest Night, Tubby's brother, H.B., kept the members highly amused with stories of Tubby's younger days and of the Old House in Poperinghe. Two more transports have been met, and the wives and kiddies of the troops entertained at our rooms. The number entertained on Boxing Day was by far the largest we have dealt with yet—somewhere about 80. Arrangements are being made to picnic some of the men from H.M.S. *Triad* at Elephanta Island, and a similar outing for the band boys in Colaba Garrison. Visits to the Seamen's Institute are regularly carried out; and we have discovered another very useful field for our activities in the shape of a hostel for European and Anglo-Indian lads out at Mazagaon.—(*The Lamp.*)

CALCUTTA.—The outstanding event of January was the decision to split Group I into two and form Calcutta Group III (Group II has been in existence for some time). We now await the sanction of the Senior Council.

MADRAS.—Our Headquarters at the Fort (the opening of which was described in the February JOURNAL p. 68) have been open every day to the troops, and two members have been on duty every evening. The use made of the rooms shows to what extent they were needed, and that the outlay on them was fully justified. It is hoped, with the help of the military authorities, to extend into two more rooms in the near future. While H.M.S. *Effingham* was in Madras Harbour the Group had the pleasure of chaperoning and financing an entertainment given by the band boys of the Lancashire Fusiliers to the boys of the *Effingham* in the Toc H Room. The "Tic-Tocs" went on board the *Effingham* and scored their biggest success so far, with an audience of 400. The Group's "baby cinema" has been in constant use at the Hospitals, Hostels, Prison, &c. Some of the officers of one of the Rangoon mail boats were entertained to tennis and tea at a married member's house, and the married members of the Group see a further chance of service in this direction.—(*The Lamp.*)

THE NEAR EAST

SUEZ Group has been in existence now for over a year and wishes to give some account of itself. We have a dinner and Guest-night once a month and a meeting once a fortnight. Unfortunately jobs are scarce, and as the bulk of our members are only temporarily stationed in Suez, and have therefore little or no knowledge of Arabic, we are unable at present to tackle work of the boys' club nature, but during the time that the parish was without a Padre

we ran the children's day school. Hospital visiting is being done whenever patients, especially British seamen, arrive. We are looking forward to the day when the new Harbour is to be opened, when we hope to obtain a hut to organise and run as a Sailors' Club. At present a library has been started which ships' crews are invited to use. We also endeavour to arrange football and cricket with crews landing at Suez. M. T. W.

SOUTH

LADYSMITH: *Extract from a letter to Harry Ellison from "Tommy Atkins," Secretary of the Group, dated 8.3.1927:* "First of all, Uncle Harry, enclosed is a draft in your favour for £10 10s., which is Ladysmith Group's endeavour to put something to the (Headquarters) fund which was appealed for some time back. Will you, on behalf of one of your Groups, put the money into the right hands. The Group will do this each year. When it was mentioned to Padre Billy Williams he was bucked and said he thought we would be the first in the Land of Sunshine to remit our little bit. Since the last epistle the Group has steadily grown, and now boasts of 18 members and 20 keen blokes besides. We meet every Thursday, and by so doing I think we have broken down nearly all the stiffness. . . . We now have a great assortment—bank 'stiffs,' railway clerks, drivers, cleaners, solicitors, a dentist, store assistants—well, in all a regular *pot pourri*. We also have

AFRICA

a few of the people you wanted to come in—the Dutch 'blokes.' . . . We have got into touch with local bodies, with the idea of working in conjunction, but out of all correspondence only two were interested—but we're not finished with the others yet! At the moment one job is going through in assisting the Child Welfare Society to help a bad case. The Group carry on visiting the sick at the Sanatorium and supplying periodicals, which is appreciated. A—, having given his blood for transfusion, reported that he had succeeded in forming a troop of Rover Scouts. There are many small jobs: the big ones will follow later. Toc H had a concert, chiefly for getting our £10 to you blokes at H.Q. . . . S—, the musical director, worked very hard indeed, putting on a first-rate show from the public's point of view. The Group . . . were leaders in the Community Singing, which appeared then for the first time in Ladysmith."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Considerable activity is apparent in Toc H U.S.A., and is summarised as follows in a letter dated March 21, to the Editor from "King" (Charles H.) Hindley, late Jobmaster of Cambridge Branch, now "office boy, newly appointed, at Headquarters" in New York:—

NEW YORK (N.Y.)—Has a great time with the Sea Boys, and is struggling to find better accommodation. The Hostellers are learning fast what Toc H means.

PHILADELPHIA (P.A.)—Now organised in three Groups, viz: *Chestnut Hill*.—Doing work of inestimable value in sponsoring the development of Toc H in the city; *Germantown*.—A newly formed Group, each man doing a job that he likes; *Central*.—The hub of the city, situated in the heart of things, very close to Padre Eastburn and feeling very much inspired by Hugh Ketchum's presence. (See further notes on the next page.)

WASHINGTON (D.C.)—These have a very fine family spirit, with that inexpressible love-bond which is racy of Toc H. Sawbones is evidently very much at home here. Their chapel services increase in usefulness every day.

COLUMBUS (OHIO)—An unofficial Group just started here, trying to tackle social problems connected with orphans. They have a great leader in Padre Randolph.

CHICAGO (ILL.)—An unofficial Group in three divisions trying to grasp what Toc H can mean to Chicago.

LAKE FOREST (ILL.)—An unofficial Group in the stage of consolidation.

There are also very encouraging signs of coming activity in Madison (Wis.). Norman Neal is there from New Zealand, and he is quietly collecting a team around him. Reginald Mallett has his fingers pretty well fixed on material at Cleveland (Ohio) and they are considering ways and means of attacking evils arising from the Juvenile Courts there.

PHILADELPHIA.—The Central Philadelphia Group was inaugurated on April 1 with fitting ceremonies. Members and guests assembled at 8 o'clock, and were made welcome by the little team of initiates and prospectives. The ceremony used was that suggested by the Transvaal Executive, and published in the March JOURNAL. Lights being extinguished a knock was heard at the door, and Messrs. Lukens and Washburn, bearing the Rushlight, were admitted. They presented the Light to the new Group on behalf of the brotherhood of Toc H. Padre Eastburn replied for the Group "We will maintain the Light by service and love." Padre Pryor Grant, of New York, then took the ceremony of "Light," following which the six candidates for initiation with their sponsors came forward and were received into the Family by Padre Wm. B. Lusk, of Ridgefield, Conn. The rest of the meeting was a true Toc H mixture of high-heartedness and deep-mindedness. *Rogerum* was sung; Padre Pryor Grant gave a quiet talk on the real meaning of Toc H; and Padre Lusk followed, first reminding his

hearers that he had long prophesied great things for Toc H in Philadelphia, and now felt that he was a true prophet, then treating the gathering to a series of his inimitable stories, many of which he credited to his travels with George McLeod, Padre of the Edinburgh Branch. After another burst of song, three Philadelphia clergymen who were at their first Toc H meeting spoke. Louis Washburn read Tubby's *Some Better Thing*, and Lew Lukens said in a few convincing sentences what Toc H had meant to the "Chestnut Hill family" during the past two years, and how delighted they all were to see the Movement spreading. The newly initiated Chairman said a few words; Hugh Ketchum acted as Master of ceremonies; Padre Eastburn closed with Family Prayers. The meeting over, everyone descended to the tea-room below, where, by the light of many candles, coffee and sandwiches were consumed and *Caractacus*, *Dear Eliza* and other songs familiar to Toc H were sung. Padre Lusk and Hugh Ketchum did a duet on *Ilkley Moor* with great effect. The Central Group is well away, and intends to make good. Its forthcoming week-end visit to the Washington Branch (Mark I) should give it a goal to work for—Branch status.

ALBERT W. EASTBURN.

Padre Eastburn (whom many members in England met earlier in the year), writing on March 21 to Peter Monie, adds: "On Wednesday we had our first Padres' Conference in America. Pryor Grant and Sawbridge were present and three honorary Padres of Phila. Groups. The meeting was very informal: the main thing was to meet and ask questions of those longer in the family. The seeds are being sown by Ketchum and myself for another Group in the industrial section of our city, and for one more Group across the Delaware River in the town of Camden in the State of New Jersey. When these 'grapes' have become Groups, we shall nourish them into Branches and look for a normal growth from then on, as the family splits off and starts other Groups. ('Grape' is the name of the few who are not yet a Group.)"

FOC H LEAGUE OF WOMEN HELPERS.

A.—In the British Isles.

Hon. General Secretary : Miss A. B. S. Macie, 50 Great Tower Street, E.C.3.

Padre : Rev. H. Cawley, 84c Lexham Gardens, S.W.7.

Assistant Secretary : Miss E. V. Leonard, 10 Stanley Gardens, Notting Hill, W.11.

Secretary for Guides : Miss M. R. Stewart, 688 Old Ford Road, E.3.

Area Secretaries : *Manchester* : Mrs. Edwards, Ainderby, Chatsworth Road, Eccles ; *Midlands* : Miss P. Young, 3 Howard Street, Nottingham ; *W. England & S. Wales* : Miss N. Vaisey, Norden Cottage, Combe Down, Bath ; *Yorks, S. & W.* : Mrs. Redrobe, 219, Abbeyfield Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield ; *North of England* : Miss M. Diemer, 9 Elmfield Gardens, Gosforth, North-umberland ; *Northern Ireland* : Miss P. Legg, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.

Houses.

NEW JUNE
SECOND JUNE (Headquarters) 50 Great Tower Street, E.C.3.
10 Stanley Gardens, Notting Hill, W.11.

Branches.

BLACKBURN
BRIGHTON
CARDIFF
CHELTENHAM
EXETER
GENERAL BRANCH
GRANTHAM
HALIFAX
HAROLD WOOD
HULL
LONDON :
 KENSINGTON
 E.C.
 GENERAL
 N. LONDON
 PIMLICO
 S. LONDON
 WIMBLEDON
MANCHESTER
ROtherham
SALFORD
SHEFFIELD

Miss E. Walker, 71 Oozehead Lane.
Miss L. Frederick, 8 Eastern Terrace.
Mrs. W. Jones, 238 Newport Road.
Mrs. Hickman, The Granleys.
Miss Furdon, "Furdon," Thorverton, Exeter.
Mrs. Watford, 95 Keith Lucas Road, Cove, Farnborough.
Miss Heeley, 2 West Avenue, Earlsfield Avenue.
Miss M. Howarth, 18 Wolsley Terrace.
Mrs. Pratt, 1 Waveney Villas, Church Road.
Mrs. McDermott, 4 West Parade, Anlaby Road.

Mrs. Steele, 17 Westmoreland Road, Bayswater.
Miss Benbow, 9 Stafford Road, Sidcup, Kent.
Mrs. Wallace, c/o New June, 50, Great Tower Street, E.C.3.
Miss Cobham, Nutford House, Nutford Place, Marble Arch.
Miss Bates, 20 Gwendwr Road, W.14.
Miss B. Elms, 5 Burton Houses, Brief Street, Myatt's Park, S.E.
Miss Marlborough, 40 Dunmore Road.
Miss M. Burd, The Poplars, Whalley Road, Whalley Range.
Miss Challiner, 16 Princes Street.
Mrs. Edwards, Ainderby, Chatsworth Road, Eccles.
Mrs. Redrobe, 219 Abbeyfield Road, Pitsmoor.

Groups.

Aldershot
Altringham
Berry
Bish
Bedford
Belfast
Birmingham
Bolton
Bristol
Casterbury
Clacton-on-Sea
Centingham
Coventry
Cullercoats
Derby
Doncaster
Durham
Felling
Gatehead
Hastings
Hebburn
Huddersfield
Liverpool

Miss M. L. Hibberd, 65, St. Michael's Road.
Mrs. Hollis, The Beeches, Moss Lane, Timperley, Cheshire.
Mrs. Price-Hughes, 52 St. Nicholas Street.
Miss Thomas, Hampton House, Bathampton, Bath.
Miss Canvin, 14 Goldington Road.
Miss E. Clarke, 2 Ulster Terrace.
Miss F. Mason, 7, Lime Grove, Handsworth.
Miss Robbins, 76 Westbourne Avenue.
Miss Boucher, 26 Clarendon Road, Redland.
Miss F. Kerridge, 25 Albert Road.
Mrs. A. C. King, Bank Chambers, Pier Avenue.
Miss M. Balmforth, Clifton Villa, South Street.
Miss L. Huntly, 1a Coventry Street, Upper Stoke.
Miss M. Ferguson, 76 Huddleston Street.
Mrs. Coleman, Corners, Littleover Hill.
Mrs. Laywood, 47 Christchurch Road.
Mrs. Elliott, 50 Sunderland Road.
Miss E. A. Piggates, 11 Falla Park Crescent.
Miss Stoker, 2 Osborne Terrace, Bensham.
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<i>Melbourne II.</i>	Miss D. Barnard.
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